FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 JUNE 1984

Gulf Conflict

Cease-Fire Developments — Reacting to Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remark that Iran will not fire at Gulf targets if Iraq refrains from attacking tankers, the Iraqi culture and information minister stated that Iraq sees nothing new in the Majlis speaker's comments. Characterizing the Iranian official's statements as "ambiguous," the minister said that Iraq "absolutely rejects" any proposal for a cease-fire in the Gulf that does not fully guarantee Iraq's rights to use its ports and waterways. Iran must plainly define its stand on Security Council Resolution No 540, issued in connection with this issue, he asserted.

In another development, Iranian artillery shelled the Iraqi village of Sayyid Sadiq on 16 June, according to a message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. In his message, 'Aziz warned that continued violation of the agreement by Iran will compel Iraq to respond in kind. However, the chief of the Joint Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces denied that Iran had shelled or attacked residential areas in Iraq, according to IRNA. In another message to Perez de Cuellar, Tariq 'Aziz announced Iraq's acceptance of the measures proposed by the UN secretary general concerning UN supervision of the partial cease-fire and requested that the UN team be instructed to proceed to Baghdad "immediately." In a related report, KUNA announced that both Iran and Iraq have agreed to the setting up of UN observer teams.

Iraqi Threat — The Iraqi newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, according to INA, claimed that Iraq now has all the weapons required to deal a "crushing blow" to Khark Island and its installations, adding that Iraq will not hesitate to deal such a blow at the appropriate time.

Iranians Depart for Front — Large contingents from mobilization units and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps left for the battlefronts over the weekend, according to Tehran and other Iranian domestic radios.

Jordanian Assistance — Jordan would send troops to help Iraq "if necessary" and would provide similar assistance for the Gulf states if they requested it, King Husayn stated in a British television interview broadcast on 17 June.

Iran

More than 40 "rebel" leaders have been killed or captured, and a 2,000-square kilometer area in northwestern Iran, including 70 villages, has been "purged" of "counterrevolutionary rebels" in a five-stage operation, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Kordestan Province announced in remarks reported by IRNA. Security in Kordestan has become "satisfactory," he added.

Lebanon

Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Bikfayya where he met with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 18 June. An official Lebanese source disclosed that the Syrian-Lebanese talks would deal with security and political developments, according to Beirut radio, and Khaddam's visit is linked to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's efforts to follow up the agreements reached in his successive summit meetings with Al-Jumayyil. Meanwhile, in a *MONDAY MORNING* interview broadcast by Beirut radio, Karami dismissed the possibility of Syrian troops returning to Beirut, asserting that "there are no signs of such developments," which would be "undesirable and unwarranted." As for the deterioration of the security situation in Beirut in recent weeks, Karami blamed all the warring parties for the violence.

An officer in the French observer forces was injured as clashes continued across the contact lines in Beirut during the weekend, according to Voice of Lebanon radio. In the south, five IDF soldiers were wounded when a car exploded near their convoy south of the Az-Zahrani River, IDF Radio reported on 16 June citing a statement by the IDF spokesman. The car driver was killed in the explosion, and Israeli authorities are assuming that he was a Shi'ite terrorist on a suicide mission, the Tel Aviv paper *MA'ARIV* noted.

Syrian and Israeli forces in the Al-Biqa' valley again exchanged fire on 16 June, according to the Voice of Lebanon, and although military sources cited by IDF Radio denied that both sides were massing troops in the valley, Damascus radio spoke of "huge" Israeli reinforcements along the confrontation lines. The tension in the Al-Biqa' follows the 2-hour clash on 14 June which involved tanks and caused casualties on both sides, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Unofficial sources in Damascus cited by the radio charged that 3 Israeli tanks were destroyed and that 15 Israelis were killed or injured in the clash, while the Syrians sustained 4 casualties.

Commenting on the possibility of an Israeli-Syrian war in an interview reported by IDF Radio, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that Syria's internal tensions could lead it into war, adding that Israel should make it clear to Damascus that the Syrian Army is not capable of standing up to a war against the IDF. Syrian press editorials reviewed by Damascus radio accused Arens of trying to mislead world public opinion to justify an imminent "aggression" against Syria and linked Arens' recent visit to Washington with Israeli military preparations. In a related development, a Lebanese magazine cited by KUNA claimed that Soviet Defense Minister General Dmitriy Ustinov visited Syrian positions in the Al-Biqa' valley on 10 June.

Maghreb Affairs

Algerian-Moroccan Clash — Algerian Army units on 15 June intercepted and engaged a motorized unit of the Moroccan Armed Forces which crossed the Algerian border in the direction of Bechar Province, killing 2 members of the unit, wounding 2 others, and capturing 31, according to Algiers radio. A statement issued by the Moroccan Information Ministry conceded that a "minor clash" occurred when a Moroccan unit entered Algerian territory "by mistake," adding that the Moroccan and Algerian interior ministers immediately held contacts to keep the incident "in its true dimensions."

Tunisian Ex-Minister Sentenced — The Tunisian Supreme Court on 16 June sentenced former Interior Minister Driss Guiga to 10 years' hard labor for "overstepping the bounds of authority" and committing acts harmful to the supreme interests of the country and to a further 5 years in prison for "illegal gains," and deprivation of cultural and political rights for 10 years, Tunis radio announced.

Pakistan-DRA

Pakistan issued a protest to Afghanistan over a 16 June bombing raid on a camp inside Pakistan which killed six Afghan children, Karachi radio announced. The protest was delivered to the Afghan charge d'affaires in Karachi together with a warning that Afghan authorities would be responsible for the consequences of any further violations of Pakistan's airspace.

FBIS

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French Foreign Ministry: No Mitterrand-'Arafat Meeting

LD151506 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1453 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Paris, 15 Jun (KUNA) — The French Foreign Ministry spokesman told KUNA today that French President Francois Mitterrand will not meet with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat during his official visit to Jordan 9-11 July. The spokesman added that the president will certainly raise the question of Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue with Jordanian King Husayn.

Palestinian sources in Amman said today that President Mitterrand is expected to meet with PLO Executive Committee Chairman 'Arafat during the former's visit to Amman. The sources said contacts are underway between the PLO and the French Government to arrange for the meeting between the two men.

Further Materials on 'Arafat's Visit to Italy

'Arafat, Delegation Conclude Visit

JN151720 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] concluded his official visit to Italy. He headed the PLO delegation that included Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the FLO Political Department, to the official funeral of the late communist leader Enrico Berlinguer, secretary general of the Italian Communist Party.

During his visit, Brother Abu 'Ammar also held a series of official meetings with senior Italian Government officials and leaders of the Italian Communist Party. These meetings were crowned by the important meeting with Italian President Pertini at the presidential palace yesterday morning. Our correspondent said that the Italian president affirmed Italy's firm support for the PLO and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, the foremost of which are their rights to self-determination and their own independent state. The Italian president noted that supporting the Palestinian people and their just struggle is the duty of all free and honorable men in the world.

Brother Abu 'Ammar thanked the Italian president for Italy's stands in support of the just Palestinian struggle and for the positive role the Italian contingent of the Multinational Force in Beirut has played in protecting and assisting Palestinian civilians. The discussion dealt with the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

'Arafat Interviewed by ANSA

AU151925 Rome ANSA in English 1917 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, June 15 — The readiness of the Palestine Liberation Organization to negotiate with Israel under the "banner of the United Nations" within an international conference designed to find a peaceful settlement for the Middle Eastern Crisis was reiterated by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here today in an interview published by the Italian Communist Party daily, *L'UNITA*.

'Arafat was in Italy for Wednesday's funeral of the Party Secretary Enrico Berlinger. His "unofficial" stay also included talks with Senate Speaker Francesco Cossiga, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, the Communist Party leadership, and a "courtesy visit" to head-of-state Sandro Pertini. According to 'Arafat, his conversation with Andreotti dealt primarily with the PLO's proposal for an international conference on the Middle Eastern crisis "under the aegis of the United Nations, with the participation of all the interested parties, and with the presence of the permanent members of the UN Security Council."

So, Israel would be there too, the interviewer wondered. "What I said was clear," 'Arafat replied, "and I confirm that I am available for a dialogue under the banner of the United Nations, within the framework of the international conference I have referred to."

"I challenge everyone on the terrain of peace," the PLO leader said, disclosing that he and Andreotti have agreed to continue their consultations. "Unfortunately, so far, the Israeli government's response has been to reassert its Nazi, Zionist, and racist nature."

Summing up the Palestinians' current situation, 'Arafat said "our people is united, inside and outside the occupied territories, and it has expressed its total support for the PLO as its sole legitimate representative."

"Certainly," he added, "there are various viewpoints within the Palestinian world, especially after the difficulties we have been through and Arab attempts to interfere with our autonomous, independent, and national decisionmaking."

"But in all our ongoing consultations in preparation for the session of our National Council, we are talking about one fundamental principle: safeguarding our independence of decision and our determination not to permit interference of any kind, by anyone."

Asked if he thought the PLO could overcome its disagreements with Syria, 'Arafat said, "We have accepted all mediations, above all the Soviet Union's, then from Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Yemen."

"We cannot say these attempts have been a failure," 'Arafat added. "Some progress has been made on the general level."

Delegation Issues Statement

JN151744 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The PLO delegation has issued a statement in the Italian capital on the meeting between Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Italian Foreign Minister Guilio Andreotti. The statement said that during the meeting they discussed developments in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas as well as the Arab Gulf. Brother Abu 'Ammar acquainted Andreotti with the PLO's call for an international conference to be held under UN auspices that would be attended by all parties, including the PLO and permanent members of the Security Council.

The two sides also reviewed our people's suffering inside the occupied homeland as a result of the confiscation of land, the establishment of settlements, the Judaization of Islamic and Christian holy places, and the escalation of the policy of terrorism against our people inside occupied territories. They also discussed the Palestinian initiative, proposed through the Islamic Good Offices Committee, to end the Iraq-Iran war. The Italian side expressed interest in this initiative and wished it success.

'Arafat Returns to Tunis

LD152013 Rabat MAP in English 1235 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Tunis, June 15 [IINA-MAP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasir 'Arafat returned here Friday night from Rome after a short visit to Italy during which he discussed with the Italian leaders the Palestine cause and the Middle East developments. In Rome 'Arafat met with Italian President Sandro Pertini who reitereated his country's support for a Palestinian homeland. President Pertini renewed his support for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and an independent state, a PLO statement said. The statement said Pertini told 'Arafat that support for the Palestinian people was "a moral duty of all free and honest people in the world." 'Arafat "thanked the president" for his constant support to the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights." He also voiced his gratitude for the support by the Italian people.

'Arafat, who went to Rome for the funeral of Italian communist leader Enrico Berlinguer Wednesday, also met Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

'Arafat Warns of Period After Israeli Elections

LD152322 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has ruled out any chance of a change in occupied Palestine whether the Labor Party takes office or the Likud remains in power. This is because they both set out from a fanatical theory, even if they differ in their choice of words, their manner of speaking, or the cloak that either party wears.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti news agency in Rome, Brother Abu 'Ammar warned the Arabs and the world about the period that will follow the coming elections in occupied Palestine, saying: We must be very vigilant in the period that will follow these elections. It will be full of surprises and the Palestine people must be ready to confront it as of now.

'Arafat Thanks Bulgaria's Zhivkov for Greetings

LD161111 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Tunis, 16/06/84 (APS) — Mr Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee president, addressed yesterday a message to President Todor Zhivkov, in an answer to a telegram of congratulation that the Bulgarian head of state sent to him on the occasion of PLO 20th anniversary.

Reiterating the Palestinian people's solidarity with all the other peoples struggling against imperialism, Zionism, and racist segregation, Mr Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that the Palestinian people will carry on its just struggle till the recovery of all its national rights. The PLO president expressed, in his message, his consideration to the Bulgarian people and leaders for their firm and undefectible [as received] support for the Palestinian cause.

PLO Official To Meet 'Arafat in Tunis for Talks

JN170853 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jun 84 p 24

[Text] Amman — Brigadier General 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya, PLO representative in Jordan, will leave Amman for Tunis today. He willmeet PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi [Abu al-Lutf] in order to closely assimilate the development of events in the Palestinian arena in light of the meetings in Algiers and Aden among the resistance groups. These meetings have so far not produced any positive results.

George Habash Criticizes 'Arafat, King Husayn

JN152130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has said that of all the Arab countries neighboring Palestine, Syria is the sole country confronting the Zionist-imperialist onslaught in the region. In a statement to the Lebanese magazine *SABAH AL-KHAYR*, to be published tomorrow, Dr Habash added: If we, the PLO, want to confront Zionism and imperialism, then it is essential to ally ourselves with Syria.

Habash said that Yasir 'Arafat is no longer a common denominator in the Palestinian arena and is no longer qualified to establish the necessary national Arab alliances for the benefit of the Palestinian national struggle. He said that 'Arafat's antics have prompted several forces and countries, such as Syria, to lose confidence in him. The PFLP secretary general affirmed that the best thing that 'Arafat can do at this historic and fateful moment in the life of the Palestinian revolution is, first, to refrain from making statements. Then he should seriously contemplate resigning as chairman of the PLO, particularly since there are eight Palestinian factions that no longer regard 'Arafat as the common denominator for the unity of the organization.

Dr Habash called for escalating armed struggle at this stage, for reinforcing the revolution's role within the framework of the Palestinian national alliance, and for uniting Palestinian resistance forces against the deviant course and expelling its symbols from the organization in order to restore unity. Dr Habash expressed surprise at 'Arafat's call for cooperating with Syria at a time when he is trying to deepen his alliance with the Camp David regime and the Jordanian regime, which is well known for its links with U.S. imperialism. Dr Habash expressed regret that a number of Palestinians, headed by 'Arafat, are cooperating with Jordan and with Husni Mubarak, as well as with other U.S. regimes in an attempt to arrange settlements that are principally aimed against Syria and forces confronting these designs.

Dr Habash condemned the Jordanian regime's policy. He said that the Jordanian regime's political course is very clear — to ally tiself with U.S. policy and implement its general designs in the region. He affirmed that King Husayn's recent statements in which he criticized U.S. policy are merely a facade aimed at attracting attention while he makes preparations, through his relations with the Egyptians and with Yasir 'Arafat, to arrange the situation in the region and subsequently participate in the next U.S. move.

Dr Habash criticized the Morrocan regime's holding of a conference in Morocco for Zionist organizations. He said that with the exception of the stand that Syria and the countries of the steadfastness front took on this conference, the Arab countries remained silent and indifferent.

Dr Habash praised Syria's stand on the Iraq-Iran war. He said: We in the PFLP have condemned this war from the start. We support any Syrian effort to prevent this war from spreading, because that would only serve premeditated U.S. designs against the Gulf states and the Arab nation.

Further Materials on Palestinian Dialogue

Al-Wazir on Aden Meeting

JN151751 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the third round of the Palestinian dialogue talks, which have been temporarily suspended in Aden, sought to define the various participant organizations' reply to the political and organizational proposals the Fatah movement submitted at the second meeting held in Algiers last month. Brother Abu Jihad explained that the Aden meeting will remain open for another week, provided that steps to complete consultations with the leaders of the participant parties are carried out within 5 days.

At a news conference in San'a' yesterday, Brother Abu Jihad said that the Aden meeting faced some obstacles. This necessitated the participant delegations' departure for consultations with their organizations in order to put the final touches on the Aden meeting's resolutions, particularly with regard to setting a final date for the PNC meeting.

Comment on Palestinian Decisionmaking

JN151956 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1625 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Political editor dispatch]

[Text] What is exactly the principal issue that is being discussed in Aden? Is it the Cairo visit? Is it the infrastructure of the organization's leadership and how it should be? Is it the political manifesto? Is it the way with which to develop the organization's institutions? Are these the topics that are being discussed in the Aden dialogue or is there a much deeper issue?

Actually, we do believe that there is a much deeper issue being discussed. The issue is: Will the PLO remain Palestinian, possessing the Palestinian decisionmaking and political program? Or will it, under various slogans, slip from the Palestinians' hands and settle in the hands of this or that Arab country. This is the topic being discussed in Aden and the one which was also discussed in detail in Algiers. We must be somewhat frank. Had the issue in question been a political one, it would have been settled, particularly since no Palestinian party could find any criticism of the political proposal which the Fatah movement submitted to the dialogue and which embodies the expectations of all Palestinians. Had the issue been an organizational one, then thousands of hours of dialogue, as well as the points Fatah proposed in order to tackle the PLO's organizational situation, would have been sufficient for achieving the formula, understanding, and agreement.

Thus, the matter is actually different from what has been said about it. The issue is the question of decisionmaking. Do we have the decisionmaking or does somebody else have it? Does the decisionmaking emerge from within Palestinian frameworks or from non-Palestinian institutions and organs — more specifically, from Syrian and Libyan ones?

As far as Fatah is concerned, everyone knows that it has its own decisionmaking and stands and that no Arab party, regardless of its size or weight, can influence Fatah or force it to adopt a decision in which it does not believe and in which it does not see the interest and cause of the Palestinian people. However, the others, who at the best of times move within the narrow corridor of Syrian geography and who hope to harmonize between Syrian geography and what it is possible to achieve on the Palestinian level, either ignore or prefer to ignore a major point: The narrow Syrian corridor which narrowed and was finally closed to Fatah, the principal force of Palestinian action, is now being narrowed and is about to close to the other factions. Consequently, those who bet that we will continue to have an office in Damascus and who equate this bet with all the national issues are making a destructive wager. The bettors will only reap disappointment, perhaps when it is too late.

The Fatah movement has always done its utmost to make the dialogue succeed, and it will continue its responsible course in the Palestinian arena, particularly with regard to dialogue with the factions. At the same time, Fatah will not allow paralysis, incompetence, and fragmentation to become entrenched. Inspired by its great responsibilities, Fatah will seek to save the arena and the PLO from those who have covetous ambitions against it. Fatah is confident of success, because it represents the people's conscience and because all of the Palestinian people support it and stand behind it.

Dialogue Obstacles Cited

JN1 .0723 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jun 84 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman — A third round of reconciliation talks among Fatah, the mainstream Palestinian commando group under the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) umbrella, and a left-wing four-faction alliance was adjourned for a week after seven days of deliberations Thursday following their failure to reach a final organisational and political agreement.

The deputy commander of PLO forces, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), was quoted by news agencies as citing three obstacles which prevented a final agreeement. he said the reasons were:

— Failure to fix a date of the convening of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament- in-exile.
— The issue of a Syrian-backed rebellion within Fatah last year against PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's leadership which culminated in a bloody confrontation in and around the north Lebanese port of Tripoli which forced Mr 'Arafat and thousands of Palestinian fighters to evacuate north Lebanon.
— The controversial visit by Mr 'Arafat to Cairo last year.
Mr al-Wazir said that despite mediation efforts by South Yemen and Algeria, a final agreement on organisational matters eluded the Aden meeting.

The *JORDAN TIMES* learnt Friday that at one point last Wednesday the talks would have reached a deadlock if it was not for a direct intervention by South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

However, a spokesman for the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), one of the factions in the four-faction alliance, told the *JORDAN TIMES* Friday that despite the differences on political issues some progress towards restoring the unity of the PLO was reached.

Bassam Abu Sharif, who attended the last three days of talks in Aden, said he expects the fourth round of talks, scheduled to begin next Friday, to reach a final organisational and political agreement.

Ever since the reconciliation talks among Fatah and the four-faction alliance, which also includes the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Palestine Liberation Front (PFLP) and the Palestinian Communist Party, started in Algiers last April, Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and fixing a date for the PNC have proven to be the points of major disagreements.

While the four-faction alliance insisted on a "political condemnation" of Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, the final Fatah answer, which was presented in Aden, was to consider the visit only as "a serious violation of PNC resolutions regarding the PLO's relations with the Egyptian Government."

Sources from the four-faction alliance told the *JORDAN TIMES* that their organisations will study the Fatah position.

The four-party alliance refused to fix a date for convening the PNC until a final internal PLO agreement has been reached, while Fatah believed that fixing a date for the PNC should be parallel to the reconciliation talks. Fatah officials in Amman told the *JORDAN TIMES* "it is very important to convene the PNC to enhance the international image of the PLO." They also said that Fatah is also seeking to convene its general congress right after a PNC session.

The issue of the Fatah rebellion and the Syrian role surfaced last week in Aden when Fatah asked for a political condemnation of the dissidents and their siege and bombardment of Tripoli. The PFLP and DFLP, which work under a unified command, replied that during the siege of Tripoli their position was "loud and clear in condemning those who held the guns against their people."

'Historic Declaration' Soon

JN162042 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] A Palestinian commando leader said in Damascus today that there would be soon a historic declaration to end the split within the Palestine Liberation Organization, the PLO. Deputy Chief of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh told reporters that Palestinian reconciliation talks would resume in the next few days. He said the talks would endorse the final phraseology of the political and organizational issues already discussed in Algiers and Aden. He said he was confident the next meeting would open the way for a new phase to restore PLO unity.

Talks To Resume Friday

NC171348 Paris AFP in English 1321 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Jidda, June 17 (AFP) — Talks aimed at reconciling divided Palestinian factions, which were suspended in Aden last Wednesday, will resume on Friday, the deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian forces, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], said here today. He said the talks between Fatah, the main group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) led by Yasir 'Arafat, and the four groups united in the Palestinian Democratic Alliance had discussed the major problems between the various factions.

They were Mr 'Arafat's controversial visit to Egypt last December, battles between Syrian-backed PLO dissidents and PLO loyalists in northern Lebanon just before the visit, and the calling of the Palestine National Council. The alliance had demanded total condemnation of the Cairo visit, but Fatah rejected the call, Abu Jihad said. Fatah thought the inter-Palestinian battles were "an attempt to destroy PLO unity," he said.

The next council session had to be held in July, preferably before the July 23 Israeli elections, he said, but the meeting in the capital of South Yemen had not produced any agreement.

The Democratic Alliance is made up of the Popular and Democratic Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian Communist Party.

Operation Near Az-Zahrani River Reported

JN171745 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The Joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance has carried out a daring and heroic operation against a Zionist military position near the Az-Zahrani River in southern Lebanon. Several enemy soldiers were killed or wounded and two armored vehicles were destroyed when a resistance man stormed the Zionist position in a booby-trapped car loaded with highly explosive materials.

The enemy army command admitted this daring operation and claimed that only two of its personnel were killed and seven others wounded as a result of the explosion. The enemy command added that the Israeli forces cordoned off the area and launched a large-scale, futile search for the resistance men who were observing the operation.

GULF AFFAIRS

Economic Committee Meeting Postponed

LD171337 Riyadh SPA in English 1235 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Riyadh, June 17, SPA — A meeting of the economic and social planning committee, which is comprised of the Gulf Cooperation Council's planning ministers, is postponed for a date which will be fixed later in response to requests from Oman and Qatar, the GCC General Secretariat announced here today. The meeting was orginally scheduled to take place in Jidda tomorrow. GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah has sent cables to participants informing them of the postponement.

KUWAIT

Shaykh as-Sabah on GCC Responsibility for Gulf Defense

LD181145 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah as-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir has reaffirmed the GCC members are determined to defend themselves by all necessary means and methods.

He told a press conference for foreign journalists held at the Grand Festival Hall of the broadcasting building this morning that the recent meeting of the GCC foreign minister had a thorough discussion [words indistinct] all aspects relating to the confrontation of common dangers, and reaffirmed the Gulf states' firm determination to jointly confront any danger which might theaten any one of them.

At the beginning of the press conference Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad reviewed the dangers emanating from the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the complications for the region and the world, in addition to the human and material losses being suffered by both countries. He also reviewed what Kuwait has done, having recognized these dangers at a very early stage, at the highest levels and in cooperation with fraternal and friendly states to put a speedy end to this war and solve the outstanding problems between Iraq and Iran peacefully. He expressed his profound regret that such sincere efforts were not given the opportunity to succeed. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that Kuwait's efforts concentrated on two organically linked points: To directly work for the war's end,and to realize how much international interest and effects are in this war, its results, and its existing and potential dangers.

He said we have been successful as far as the second point is concerned, but have not had much success with the first. He added that in all its efforts Kuwait has been anxious to make the maximum possible use of cooperation and coordination with the rest of the fraternal states of the Gulf, before the GCC Council was established and after that through the council itself.

The deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, the foreign and information minister, then said we have tried to show, to the maximum extent possible, friendship and desire for cooperation with the Muslim neighbor Iran, to avoid misunderstanding or a wrong interpretation of our moves. But, regrettably, all this did not meet with understanding and appreciation in Tehran, which has long been waging an intensive media campaign against the Gulf States, including Kuwait.

The matter actually goes beyond this, for Iran has committed some hostile acts against Kuwait, among them repeated air attacks on Kuwaiti territory in the initial stages of the war, and later strikes against Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers. He said that despite this, our side maintained the utmost degree of self-restraint. That we turned to the UN Security Council proves our desire for peace and reconciliation instead of war and confrontation. He went on to add that despite the black clouds swirling in this region we still hope Iran will respond as Iraq did previously to the call for peace and reconciliation and sitting at the negotiating table to confront the real challenge. This is to reach a practical and fair formula for ending the disputes between the two Muslim neighbors and thus moving this sensitive area of the world away from the alarming possibilities of the war's continuation, the least of which is the extension of its sphere and possible foreign interventions, which would not be in the interest of any of the region's sons. Moreover, they will represent a grave setback for the principle we have been commited to and guided by: absolute rejection of foreign intervention and affirmation that the security and stability of this region are the responsibility of its states alone.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad reiterated the call to neighboring Iran to work with us hand in hand to prevent such interventions, so that the Arabs and Iranians on both sides of the Gulf will be able to devote themselves to their mutual aspirations for development and progress.

Replying to a question, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed Kuwait is in no need of outside help, because it is capable of protecting itself through the cohesion of its people with the peoples of the region. In actual fact military cooperation for self-defense has begun among the GCC countries. He made it clear the peoples of the region are brothers in the religion, and that there is no difference between one Muslim and another; the difference is caused by those who want to export the Islamic Revolution.

We in Kuwait are Muslims, he said, but we do not believe in exporting revolutions.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad replied to another question: Iraq ought to be given the right Iran has to use some of its ports to export its oil. He expressed the hope that the delay of the promised Iranian assault represents a response to the initiative of UN General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar to stop the war, on land and sea. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed the Gulf does not belong to the GCC or to any other body. It is an international marine route governed by an international agreement. Hence we will be responsible for protecting our ships. The freedom of navigation in marine routes is a UN responsibility.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his confidence that the Arabism of President Hafiz al-Asad will make him alter his whole policy regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war if the sphere of the conflict spreads. He said that the efforts we exerted to end the dispute between Iraq and Syria to reopen the Iraqi oil pipeline through Syria did not succeed, but added this pipeline is no longer a major matter because there are projects to lay other pipelines. He expressed the hope that one day Syria will agree to the GCC states' wishes.

AT-TADAMUN Interview

LD152122 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpts] London, 15 Jun (KUNA) — Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah stressed he believes the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council on hitting tankers could move the international community into giving more attention to the Iraqi-Iranian war, because this war is a source of danger.

In the second part of his interview with *AT-TADAMUN* magazine held in New York and due to be published tomorrow in London in Arabic, His Highness Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad expressed his pleasure at the resolution endorsed by the council because it is considered an understanding by the world states on the gravity of regional events, not only for us but also for them. In reply to a question regarding the continued shelling of tankers and Iranian threats to extend the war zone, the deputy prime minister explained Kuwait has avoided confusing the issue of tanker shelling with the issue of the war, because we are not a party to the dispute or the war.

Following is the text of the interview by *AT-TADAMUN* magazine with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad:

[Question] There is information Iran will concentrate its future attacks on Kuwait in addition to its troop concentrations on the Iraqi front. Would you say this will escalate the war in a way that will harm the Gulf states, and how would you, as Gulf states in general and Kuwait in particular, reply to an Iranian attack against Kuwait?

[Answer] First, regarding Iran and its attack on Kuwait; this is nothing new because Iran has previously shelled Kuwaiti refineries 2 years ago. We were in New York, as I remember, and held a meeting of the Arab League which concluded with a condemnation, and stopped at that. We have also seen how the explosions that occurred at some Kuwait installations and foreign embassies had links with Iran, but we treated the matter as Kuwaiti only. Thanks to God we arrested many of those who carried out the explosion operations, except for two or three who fled to Iran. However, in the case of Kuwait's becoming the subject of Iranian attacks, Kuwait has the right to defend itself. The issue is not that of Kuwait's impotence; Kuwait will defend itself and will find its sisters, the Gulf states, on its side.

[Question] After agreeing to sell Stinger missiles to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United States refused to sell them to Kuwait. Do you think this attitude is aimed at reaching a stage where the United States will demand direct intervention to defend you?

[Answer] We have to remove the issue of direct U.S. intervention from our thoughts. We in the Gulf, and particularly in Kuwait, purchase arms from the East and the West, and what has been termed as rejection we perceive as preparation taking place in the Congress to sell the missiles to us. We will remain in contact with the U.S. Government to conclude the deal, and I hope that it will be concluded. But it will not happen with the speed we desire. Kuwait has enough Eastern and Western arms, and the equivalent of these missiles.

[Question] How does Shaykh Sabah perceive Saudi-Soviet relations, the Saudi request to the Soviet Union to support the resolution at the UN Security Council, and other events and signs?

[Answer] Saudi Arabia was the first Arab country to have relations with the Soviet Union. However, some kind of misunderstanding occurred, and relations between them were severed. I consider that these relations exist, but not through the exchange of embassies and ambassadors. We in Kuwait are among the countries that have diplomatic exchanges with the Soviet Union. Our contacts with the Soviet Union, in addition to the contacts made by our brothers in other Gulf countries, were made to ensure its support for the resolution, and this gives a good impression, namely that in the future there is a possibility for diplomatic representation between the region's countries and the Soviet Union. We must not denounce this issue. It depends on the policy of each state. When we say we intend to reevaluate our foreign policies, we mean we will include these matters among the points we will discuss in future meetings.

[Question] Not much has been announced about the visit by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Tehran to mediate between it and Iraq. Have there been any positive signs?

[Answer] Before Khaddam embarked on his visit we raised the matter at the Arab League and issued a statement that any aggression against any Gulf country constitutes aggression against all Arab countries. Syria was one of those countries that voted in favor of this resolution. We appreciate this stand by Syria. According to my information, Syria has warned the Iranians that while it might have its differences with Iraq, when foreign armies enter Arab territories, including Iraqi territory, Syria would find itself obliged to side with its Arab sister states and with the collective Arab Defense Pact. This is the information I have obtained. If it proves anything, it is that no matter what difference its member countries might have among themselves, the Arab world would stand united in the face of danger. We must not forget there are Arab peoples. "We all are bound to die. All responsible officials will die one day. But the Arab land and peoples will remain," he added. Therefore I am fully hopeful that what has happened will bring us closer together — much closer than ever before.

[Question] You seem optimistic. This is a weapon which all the Arab peoples need.

[Answer] First, if I am optimistic it is because this is what our forefathers taught us. Besides, no responsible official will remain forever, but the people will. In view of this, I believe that the recent Arab unanimity in condemning Iran will have a great effect on the entire course of events in the region. We cannot deny that matters have reached a limit which demands we rally together in saying unanimously that any occupation of any Arab land is unlawful and we must stand by the side of anyone whose land has been occupied.

Foreign Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

LD161312 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1232 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jun (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and information minister, received Soviet Ambassador to Kuwait Pogos Akopov this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told journalists that during the meeting the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the development of the region's situation. He said he asked the Soviet ambassador to convey his and Kuwait's greetings and thanks to Soviet officials for their positive attitude at the UN Security Council during the debate on the GCC Arab states' complaint regarding Iranian aggressions against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers in Gulf waters.

On whether a date has been fixed for a visit to Kuwait by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said an invitation has been extended to Mr Gromyko but the date has not been fixed so far.

AL-ANBA' Criticizes Gulf States' Relations With Iran

LD151351 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Kuwait, June 15 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti daily *AL-ANBA'* Friday described Arab-Iranian conflict in the Gulf, "A struggle of identity and existence," and blamed Arab Gulf states for making too much compromise to Iran in the name of wisdom.

The daily lashed out at Arab Gulf states for making the rise of welfare societies and investing money in and outside an aim in itself "while they should have placed the establishment of Arab Gulf defence capabilities as their prime objective."

It indicated two incidents missed by Arabs marking time when Arabs should have undertaken efforts in this direction. The first was when Iran negated the Arab identity of the Gulf water way "which was a prelude to attempts to negate the existence of all the Arab Gulf states." And the second when, in 1971, Iran occupied three Arab Gulf islands in the Gulf.

AL-ANBA' expressed understanding of the situation then "with the shah of Iran commanding a massive arsenal," but the paper, however, underscored that "nothing should have prevented us from narrowing the gap." It affirmed that yesterday's excuses are not valid today and should not prevent our establishment of societies capable of defending their borders and existence."

The daily indicated that in 1975, Iraq was compelled to sign the Algiers agreement with Iran "but since then it started building up power competent enough to abrogate the agreement, retaliate the aggression and restore dignity."

The paper noted the Arab Gulf states are in real "dilemma" because "they did not comprehend the Iranian danger from the proper angle whereby it stands as threat against their national existence, Arab identity and national sovereignty."

The paper described it a "sin" to try and "please (the Iranian regime) and make a gesture of good will towards it."

"Historic leadership rises only when it understands history and realizes the dream, and it is high time we confess to ourselves and point out to our people the danger we see and the germ of...complicity and crime so that submission is no more imposed on Arabs in the name of wisdom and self-eroding in the name of good neighborliness."

The paper concluded by calling on the Arab Gulf states to begin again, taking the "steadfastness of Iraq and its solid stand as good starting points."

Minister Hopes Iran-Iraq Cease-Fire Leads to Peace

LD171535 Kuwait KUNA in English 1346 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Kuwait, June 17 (KUNA) — Kuwait Sunday expressed hope that the Iraq-Iran agreement to halt shelling civilian targets constitutes an introduction to the end of war between the two Moslim neighbours.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said in the first official response to the agreement, Kuwait also hopes that the agreement paves the way to stop Iran from attacking Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers.

The state minister explained that the UN is genuinely concerned with this agreement and is holding contacts to deploy international observers.

'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn hoped that this step would be the start for a complete understanding of the importance of peace in the region since "the Gulf is an important waterway, not only to the Gulf states but also to the whole world."

AS-SIYASAH: More Details on Arrested Iranians

GF171710 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 Jun 84 P 1

[Text] The competent authorities are continuing their investigation of the four Iranians suspected of attempted sabotage of vital installations in the country, possessing manufactured instruments to be used in the explosions, and being members of a proscribed group.

The four suspects are: Abu al-Hasan Ahmad (a hygiene worker); and Husayn Qadir and Hasan Muhammad (tailors). The fourth suspect is Abu al-Hasan Muhammad (a truck driver). Their ages vary from 27 to 58.

It has transpired that the four suspects attempted to blow up an important media building by planting about 25 timed explosives. They agreed to transfer these explosives to the building in two stages so they would not be discovered. The sources said the security organs were observing and following their movements to arrest them redhanded after learning the details of their criminal plot.

The four suspects were arrested while they were about to bring the major parts of the explosives into the building. When their home in the Al-Fahahil area was searched, the remaining explosive material was found.

The second and third suspects have admitted their relationship with the others and revealed the plan which they were about to implement. Explosive experts are evaluating the extent of the confiscated explosives' danger and the method of their detonation. Investigators are also continuing their efforts to find out if the accused have other collaborators or if there are any other hidden weapons or explosives.

SAUDI ARABIA

DER SPIEGEL Reports U.S. Pilot in Gulf Air Fight

LD170844 Hamburg DPA in German 0804 GMT 17 Jun

[Text] Hamburg, 17 Jun (DPA) — An American pilot is said to have been involved for the first time in the fights between Saudi and Iranian fighter aircraft on 5 June over the Persian Gulf, the news magazine *DER SPIEGEL* reports in its latest edition. According to Saudi radio, two Iranian jets had been shot down at this time. The U.S. pilot belonged to the "technical team" of American advisers to the Saudi Air Force, *DER SPIEGEL* reports. He had been either an employee of the McDonnell Douglas Corporation or an officer of the U.S. Air Force training the Saudis.

According to the *DER SPIEGEL* reports, U.S. President Ronald Reagan himself approved in principle the use of U.S. pilots for Saudi Arabia in early June. The diplomatic objective was to show the Saudi Government it could expect American military backing in the fight against Iranian and Iraqi pilots.

The air battle near the Saudi island Ar-Arabiyah had been sparked off during a refuelling maneuver. It had been the American pilot's duty to lead his inexperienced Arab partner to the fuel line of one of the American aircraft stationed in the Gulf. "When the American AWACS aircraft reported on their radar the takeoff of Iranian jets from Bushehr Airbase, the F-15 pilots broke off their maneuver and began a successful attack with Sidewinder and Sparrow missiles," *DER SPIEGEL* reported without quoting its source.

Source Refutes DER SPIEGEL

LD180030 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2205 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jun (SPA) — In reply to the report published in the West German magazine *DER SPIEGEL* published this morning saying that an American airman took part in the fight between Saudi Arabian and Iranian planes on 5 June, an authoritative source in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has stated the Kingdom had already announced through an official spokesman at the Defense Ministry a few days ago there is no truth whatsoever to this tendentious report and that the Saudi Air Force, thanks to its own sons, is not in need of foreign elements in this field.

The source added that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not used to resorting to such methods and when it needs external assistance it duly declares such a need. The source expressed deep regret at the tendentious reports in *DER SPIEGEL* which should have verified its sources to corroborate them.

King Fahd Receives Sudan's President Numayri

LD151705 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Mecca, 15 Jun (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri at the Royal Court in Mecca this evening. Numayri is in Saudi Arabia for the minor pilgrimage. The Sudanese president attended a banquet to break the fast at the invitation of King Fahd.

Further on Meeting

LD160858 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and his excellency the president of Sudan met last night in his majesty's office at the royal court in Mecca.

After the meeting his majesty graciously told the information representative that discussions dealt with various issues of benefit and good for the Islamic faith, the Islamic nation and for everything that benefits the two sister countries. His majesty asked Almighty God to (?protect) the Islamic nation and to unite it on the right and correct course.

The president of Sudan stressed his country is determined to continue on the path of implementing Islam's tenets and to resist Islam's internal and external enemies. President Numayri said in a statement published by *AL-BILAD* today he is aware of the trust and the enormity of his country's responsibility in applying the tenets of Islamic shari'a. The president of Sudan praised the Kingdom's positive stand with regard to his country, especially after Sudan's application of the magnanimous Islamic shari'a.

PLO's Al-Wazir, Al-Hasan Arrive in Jidda

LD152311 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2216 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Jidda, 15 Jun (SPA) — The deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) arrived in Jidda this evening accompanied by the adviser to the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, Hani al-Hasan, on a visit to the Kingdom.

Meet Information Minister

LD162313 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2222 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] At-Ta'if, 16 Jun (SPA) — His Excellency the Minister of Information 'Ali ash-Sha'ir, met today with the Fatah movement delegation led by Abu Jihad — Khalil al-Wazir — which included Hani al-Hasan and Abu Mahir — Muhammad Ghanaym — members of Fatah's Central Committee, who arrived yesterday evening in the Kingdom from Aden on their way to Tunisia.

During its meeting with the minister of information, the delegation reviewed the outcome of their talks in Aden and San'a' anddiscussion dealt with some emerging issues pertaining to the march of the Palestinian cause.

Delegation Departs

LD171342 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Jidda, 17 Jun (SPA) — Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander-in-chief of the Palestinian revolutionary forces and his accompanying delegation this afternoon left Jidda after a 2-day visit to the Kingdom. The Palestinian delegation met Minister of Information 'Ali ash-Sha'ir during the visit and reviewed the results of the talks held by Khalil al-Wazir in Aden and San'a'. They also discussed some of the new developments pertaining to the path of the Palestinian cause.

AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI on Planned Fahd Visit to USSR

LD160921 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0817 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Beirut, 16 Jun (KUNA) — The Lebanese weekly magazine *AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI* reports today that European diplomatic sources in Beirut have revealed King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia had planned to visit the USSR but for the flare-up of the "tankers' war" in the Arab Gulf area.

The sources said the king had decided to pay this visit for several reasons, including the failure of the U.S. experiment in the Middle East. The source was referring to the failure of the U.S. to end the Lebanese crisis.

The magazine adds there are some at the Saudi royal court who strongly support such a line. It points out the Iran-Iraq war in the Arab Gulf forced the Saudi capital to distinguish between American illusion and Arab reality.

The magazine says Saudi Ambassador to London Shaykh Nasir Al-Manqur played a prominent role in the Soviet-Saudi contacts. It adds that last May, he conveyed to the Soviet ambassador in London a message addressed to the Soviet Foreign Ministry requesting Moscow's support for the GCC's complaint at the UN Security Council against Iranian air attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers in the Arab Gulf.

It is recalled that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, with the exception of Kuwait and Iraq, have no diplomatic relations with the Communist Bloc countries.

Briefs

Information Ministry Appointment — A Saudi royal order has been issued appointing Dr Fu'ad 'Abd as-Salam al-Farsi, currently undersecretary for the Ministry of Information to succeed Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Khujah, who has been transferred, by another royal order, to King 'Abd al-'Aziz University. [Text] [Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 16 Jun 84 LD]

UAE

AL-BAYAN Criticizes U.S. Official on Gulf War

GF161055 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0710 GMT 16 Jun 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 16 Jun (WAM) — Commenting on the statement by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Murphy in which he said his country will not allow any party to be victorious in the Gulf war, the editorial in today's issue of the Dubayy-based newspaper *AL-BAYAN* says: This means war will probably continue forever or at least until Iraq and Iran's energies are dissipated.

AL-BAYAN says Murphy's statement is in full accord with the Israeli enemy leaders' satisfaction over the current Gulf situation because, according to them, "it freezes the Arab-Israeli conflict and concentrates regional and international attention on the Iraq-Iran war," which will enable Israel to continue to implement its expansionist and settlement designs without any pressure.

YAR

President Receives Visiting Fatah Delegation

GF151730 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, reaffirmed during his meeting with Brother Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, our country's principled stand and anxiousness about the unity of the PLO.

Brothers Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Mahir, and Hani al-Hasan conveyed the gratitude and appreciation of the Palestinian strugglers and the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories for our country's stand in support of the Palestinian revolution and its anxiousness about it.

Brothers Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Mahir, and Hani al-Hasan, members of Fatah Central Committee, left San'a' this morning.

Reportage on Hijacked Iranian Airliner

Lands at Luxor

NC151350 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Luxor, 15 Jun (MENA) — The hijacked Iranian passenger airliner [as received] landed at the Luxor airport this afternoon, 4 hours after it was hijacked at Bahrain Airport. The hijacked airliner, F-27, which can carry 44 passengers, was heading for Tehran when the hijackers asked the pilot to go to Cairo directly.

The Saudi authorities had refused to allow the Iranian airliner to land for more fuel. The pilot immediately contacted the Cairo airport tower and later the airliner landed in Luxor Airport.

There are eight Iranians aboard the aircraft. Consultations are currently taking place between the hijackers and responsible authorities at Luxor Airport in order to supply the aircraft with fuel.

MENA has learned that none of the Iranian aircraft passengers have sought political asylum in Egypt. Egyptian authorities are currently conducting investigations regarding the circumstances of the landing of this aircraft, which is piloted by Air Lieutenant Colonel (Husayn Ghaterman) and assisted by Air Lieutenant Colonel (Muhammad Shubak).

The aircraft landed at Luxor airport at 1420 for refuelling.

Plane Under Military Guard

NC161045 Paris AFP in English 1035 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Luxor, Egypt, June 16 (AFP) — The passengers and crew of an Iranian transport plane hijacked yesterday on its way to Tehran are likely to be transferred from here to Cairo, a military officer said today. Egyptian authorities declined to release further information on the Fokker-47 after passengers and crew members disembarked here today and the plane was put under military guard.

Hijackers yesterday forced the plane to fly first to Manama, Bahrain, then to Luxor, 720 kms (450 miles) south of here.

Several Egyptian soldiers could be seen today standing near the aircraft, which is parked at the edge of the civilian sector of what is primarily a military air base here.

It was not known whether the reported eight persons aboard had all requested political asylum in Egypt.

5 Officers on Board

NC161757 Paris AFP in English 1747 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, June 16 (AFP) — Egyptian authorities today slapped a news blackout on an Iranian military transport hijacked yesterday to Luxor Airport south of here. More than 24 hours after they arrived at Luxor, 720 kms (450 miles) from here, the identity and demands of the hijackers remained a mystery. A senior Egyptian official denied reports that Cairo had rejected a request for political asylum by the hijackers, saying only that the occupants of the Fokker F-27 had not asked to remain in Egypt, which has no diplomatic relations with the Islamic government in Tehran.

Unofficial sources here said the plane, which was scheduled to go to Tehran, was carrying five Iranian military officers and three crew members at the time of the hijacking. It was not known how many of the plane's occupants were involved. Western military experts here said an eventual defection by the Iranian officers would be handled discreetly by Cairo, which supports Iraq in its 45-month-old war with Tehran. Analysts said the affair could be resolved by allowing the hijackers to leave for Baghdad. The military experts said the Iranian officers were likely to be in possession of strategically important information concerning the Iranian war effort, such as intelligence on troop morale and the state of relations between the military and the country's Islamic leadership.

Witnesses at Luxor Airport said the Iranian plane was parked under light security on the outskirts of the airfield and had yet to be serviced or refueled by ground crews. According to rumours at the airport the aircraft had mechanical problems.

Departure Linked to Refuge

NC171235 Paris AFP in English 1225 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, June 17 (AFP) — The hijackers of an Iranian military transport plane will leave Egypt as soon as a third country has agreed to give them refuge, an Egyptian official told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today. He said the plane, a twin-engined Fokker F-27, would be returned to Iran.

Egyptian authorities yesterday imposed a blackout on the hijacking after the plane landed Friday at Luxor, 720 kms (450 miles) south of here. The identity and demands of the hijackers were not known.

A senior Egyptian official yesterday said the occupants of the plane had not asked to remain in Egypt, which has no diplomatic relations with Tehran.

Plane Leaves for Cairo

NC180948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Luxor, 18 Jun (MENA) — The hijacked Iranian plane left Luxor Airport at 0920 today on its way to Cairo Airport with its eight passengers on board. A responsible source in Luxor said that the plane left for Cairo for further talks and consultations with foreign embassies that might agree to receive the plane and grant political asylum to its passengers after Egypt refused to give them political asylum.

Plane Arrives in Cairo

NC181115 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA) — The hijacked Iranian plane arrived at one of Cairo's airports this morning.

Plane Leaves for Athens

NC181320 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1317 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA) — The hijacked Iranian plane left East Cairo Airport at 1445 today with its eight passengers on board. MENA has learned that the aircraft is now heading for Athens.

Mubarak Inaugurates Communications Station

NC170959 Cairo MENA in English 0922 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, June 17 (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak inaugurated this morning the satellite communications ground station in the suburban Cairo district of Al-Ma'adi. The station will consolidate communications with European and Gulf countries. It will also open new channels of direct communications via the Indian satellite with Asian and Far East countries and Australia.

The station's capacity is 300 channels, of which 98 would operate in the first stage.

The station has cost six million pounds.

Mubarak, Numayri To Preside Over Council

NC171200 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri will preside over the coming meeting of the Higher Integration Council due to be held on 25 June. This was stated by 'Abd as-Sattar Amin, assistant secretary general of the Integration Council. Amin said that the meeting will deal with a number of important topics, mainly the budget for the production, services, and infra-structure projects. It will also discuss the budgets of the integration fund and the Nile Valley and the higher council. Work on implementing these projects will start following the council's meeting.

Ghali Comments on Various International Issues

On Gulf, Arab League

NC150814 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has described his talks with British officials as very positive. He said that the talks have helped to strengthen diplomatic, economic, and cultural relations between Egypt and England. The talks have also helped in assessing the position on international issues which threaten peace, particularly the Middle East crisis, the situation in the occupied Arab territories, and the Gulf war. Dr Ghali also dealt with the Gulf situation in an exclusive interview with BBC radio in London broadcast today. He said that Egypt is encouraging the nonaligned countries to act to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war since it is difficult for Egypt to undertake the role of mediator because we have a special relationship with Iraq which prevents us from playing that role.

Answering a question on the issue of setting up a new Arab League to replace the present league, Dr Ghali said these are mere ideas submitted for academic discussions, but we should be interested in them because it could be possible through these ideas to strengthen the Arab League and introduce radical reforms that might lead to a (?renewal) of the League apparatus so that it will be capable of supervising joint Arab action and hence make the old League look like a new one.

On Talks With British

NC160616 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2122 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by 'Umar Wahbi in London; date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Wahbi] Mr Minister, can you shed some light on the nature of your current tour. Is it a special mission?

[Ghali] My visit to London is a working visit to hold talks with the British foreign secretary and with the British minister of state for foreign affairs. These talks dealt with bolstering relations between Cairo and London. Relations are excellent — on the diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural levels. The talks also served to exchange opinions and have consultations on some issues, foremost of which is the Palestinian problem

As you know, the European Community will meet next July at summit level. Egyptian diplomacy has always been interested in the European Community's contribution to finding a solution for the Middle East crisis. Among the subjects I discussed with the British side was the European Community's role to set the Middle East issue in motion and to find solutions for this serious crisis which is threatening world peace and security. I also discussed the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the violations of Palestinian human rights, and the importance of confidence-building measures so that the Palestinian people can participate in the peace process. We might start preparations for a new peace process after the Israeli elections, or after the U.S. elections. Egyptian diplomacy's objective is to achieve lasting, comprehensive, and just peace. We have not yet achieved this comprehensive peace, hence we must act and move at the diplomatic level for more action to achieve this comprehensive peace — one of Egyptian diplomacy's objectives.

[Wahbi] Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war and its dimensions?

[Ghali] The Iraqi-Iranian war formed also part of the discussions among myself, the British foreign secretary, and the British minister of state for foreign affairs. I explained the dimensions of the Egyptian initiative within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement to find a solution for this war, or at least to reduce this war's intensity, and to contain the escalation which is threatening the region with destruction and instability. I found the British side interested in Egyptian diplomacy's efforts for finding a solution or a settlement for the Iraqi-Iranian war.

[Wahbi] Is there a British concept on means of settling the Iraqi-Iranian war?

[Ghali] There is no [word indistinct]. Europe is interested in this war and in the efforts being exerted. Efforts have been exerted at the Nonaligned Movement level, others at the Islamic Conference Organization level. There are efforts being exerted within the UN framework. There are individual efforts. Some countries have come forward with new ideas. We find that all countries in the world are trying to contribute to the search for a solution to this war. Egypt is closely following up these efforts and is also acting within the Nonaligned Movement to find a settlement, even a partial one, for this serious war that is threatening peace and security in the Middle East region.

[Wahbi] Mr Minister, can you tell us the aspects of your coming visit to Latin America?

[Ghali] The coming tour is limited to a visit to Mexico. I will convey a written message from President Husni Mubarak to the president of the Mexican Republic. I will hold talks at the Mexican Foreign Ministry. I will seize the opportunity, while in Mexico, to take part in the opening of the second session of the Latin American-African dialogue. It is a dialogue among a group of African diplomats and experts and a group of Latin American diplomats. This dialogue will discuss how Latin American and African countries can bolster relations among the two groups and the two continents.

[Wahbi] Dr Butrus Ghali, did you discuss with the British side the continued Israeli occupation of south Lebanon?

[Ghali] The Israeli occupation of Lebanon was also discussed during our review of the Middle East crisis, as were measures that could be taken to find a solution for this serious crisis.

News Conference in Mexico

NC172144 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will hand Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid a written message from President Husni Mubarak tomorrow.

Dr Butrus Ghali today held a news conference in Mexico during which he said that Egypt will press ahead with its efforts aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis despite the obstacles which Israel is placing on the road to peace. Dr Ghali urged Israel to implement international resolutions and withdraw from Lebanon. Commenting on the situation in Gulf, Dr Ghali stressed that Egypt is playing its role within the Nonaligned Movement to avert an escalation and internationalization of the conflict. Ghali concluded his news conference by stating that Egypt supports all international initiatives aimed at solving the Middle East crisis. Egypt, he said, wants a comprehensive peace for the area.

MENA Reports on 'Ali AL-AHRAM Interview

NC180537 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Egypt has emphasized its determination to pursue its role with the nonaligned states at the United Nations and in international organizations and Islamic conferences to halt the escalation of the war in the Gulf and to pacify the situation between Iraq and Iran preparatory to resolving the conflict.

In an interview with the newspaper *AL-AHRAM* to be published tomorrow, acting Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali points out that the cessation by the two states of strikes deep inside civilian areas and at ships in the Gulf is regarded as a good step on which a great deal can be built with regard to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict — a matter that opens the way for various other mediations, including that of Egypt. Kamal Hasan 'Ali describes Egypt's mediation through nonalignment as a balanced one and says it could constitute a basis for reconciliation between Iraq and Iran.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali explains that the two steps that have been taken thus far represent movement toward a solution. This fact is supported by the statement that was recently made by an Iranian official, who expressed his country's readiness to halt attacks on ships in the Gulf. If Iraq halts its attacks on ships entering Khark port, this would lead to the desire for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution related to the freedom of navigation in the Gulf and its ports and, subsequently, it could create a suitable atmosphere for further political action for a solution and resolution of the crisis.

Regarding former Israeli Ambassador Eliyahu ben-Elisar's recent visit to Egypt, Kamal Hasan 'Ali says that the ambassador had brought some ideas, but Israel did not specify any particular subject that concerns the two countries nor fixed the venue for meetings or referred to a date for convening such meetings.

Discussing Egyptian policy, Kamal Hasan 'Ali says the prominent characteristic of this policy is the establishment of balanced and good relations with all world states. He says this policy is based on consistency, guided by the principles of international law and of the international community. He adds that the most prominent feature of change in the coming phase will be further confidence in Egypt's foreign policy and economy and encouragement of all forms of investment.

The acting prime minister points out that President Husni Mubarak is constantly seeking to consolidate democracy. He adds that the role of a strong opposition is essential, and the more constructive the opposition is, the more effective its role will be under the canopy of true democracy. He went on to say: For this reason, I welcome the existence of opposition. There cannot possibly be any disagreement on national issues and on the higher national interests both in the domestic and foreign policies.

PRC Minister Discusses Bilateral Cooperation

NC161112 Cairo MENA in English 1045 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, June 16 (MENA) — Chinese Minister of Water Conservancy and Power Industry Mrs Qian Zhengying lauded Egyptian-Chinese relations which were further consolidated by recent contacts between both countries. In an interview with the MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY, the Chinese minister said that contacts between both countries affirmed the identical viewpoints of both countries vis-a-vis several important issues, mainly the Middle East problem and the Palestinian issue. The minister expressed her country's appreciation for President Mubarak's role in consolidating Arab solidarity and the Nonaligned Movement. The Chinese minister said President Mubarak focused during their meeting on the importance of promoting technical and economic cooperation between the two countries.

She said President Mubarak entrusted her with cordial verbal messages to the Chinese leaders.

In reply to a query on Sino-Egyptian cooperation in the field of energy, Mrs Qian said a higher committee is to be formed of energy experts in both countries. The committee would convene twice a year under the ministers of energy to discuss the feasibility of fostering cooperation in the domains of electricity, manufacture of electrical devices, transfer and distribution networks, and non-conventional energies, she added. The joint committee will hold its next meeting in Beijing in March, she said.

The Chinese minister said that the major achievement of Sino-Egyptian cooperation in the last period had been the success of experiments carried by Chinese scientists on the feasibility of manufacturing electrical insulators used in power transfer and distribution for the Egyptian grid from kaolin available in Egypt, thus saving 12 million dollars annually which Egypt used to spend on the import of this equipment. A group of experts from the two countries will discuss the possibility of carrying out the insulators project in Egypt, the Chinese minister added.

The visiting minister also lauded cooperation between the two countries in the irrigation domain, adding that expertise and researches are exchanged in this field.

Answering a question on the Chinese-American nuclear agreement signed during Ronald Reagan's visit to Beijing, the Chinese official pointed out that it is one of numerous agreements the Chinese Government concluded with different countries on the use of nuclear energy in peaceful purposes, mainly in electricity generating.

Signs Energy Cooperation Protocol

NC171423 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Egypt and the PRC today signed at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy a protocol for technical cooperation in the field of electrical power. The protocol was signed on the Egyptian side by Muhammad Mahir Abaza, minister of electricity and energy, and on the Chinese side by Mrs Qian Zhengying, Chinese minister of water conservancy and power industry, who is presently visiting Cairo.

Following the signing of the protocol, Abaza said it provides for establishing a joint Egyptian-Chinese committee to include experts from the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources, and various Egyptian universities, in addition to Chinese experts. This committee will also prepare the final techincal studies required for establishing the first Egyptian factory for producing electrical insulators from Egyptian raw materials. The factory will save $12 million annually — the cost of importing these insulators which are needed for transferring and distributing electricity throughout the unified electrical grid. The construction of the factory is to start within 2 years.

Minister Abaza also said that the protocol includes an exchange of Egyptian and Chinese technicians who will oversee the operation and maintenance of power stations and electricity networks. An agreement was reached, Minister Abaza said, on exchanging information and expertise regarding the peaceful use of nuclear energy in generating electricity. Minister Abaza added that the protocol calls for the preparation by Chinese experts of studies for building power stations of limited capacities on canals in Al-Fayyum Governorate.

Citing the protocol, Minister Abaza pointed out that the Chinese Government will donate to Egypt a service unit for maintaining the cables transferring and distributing electricity — a matter which will guarantee the network's continued efficiency and, subsequently, the continued electrical supply to the production and services sectors.

Minister Abaza concluded by saying that the joint Egyptian-Chinese committee on energy will hold its first meeting next March in Beijing.

Cooperation Protocol With Romania Signed

NC161718 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA) — Egypt and Romania today signed a protocol for cooperation in the areas of public utilities, construction, and land reclamation. The protocol was signed by Hasaballah Muhammad al-Kafrawi, minister of reconstruction and minister of state for housing and land reclamation, on the Egyptian side; and by Romanian Minister Ion Stanescu, head of department for reconstruction abroad; and Ion Iosfide, Romanian ambassador to Cairo, on the Romanian side.

The protocol lays the groundwork for Romanian participation in water and sanitation projects in Asyut, housing projects in (As-Safa) in Asyut, and economic housing projects in the 6 October city on the Cairo-al-Fayyum highway. The protocol also provides for Romanian participation in reclaiming 70,000 feddans in Wadi as-Sa'aydah in Asyut and in other land reclamation projects in the governorates of upper Egypt. In addition, the protocol includes several tourist projects, among which is an international spa in Hammam Fir'awn in Sinai and a tourist complex in Hashish Valley on the Red Sea coast.

The Romanian delegation accompanying Stanescu had earlier visited Asyut Governorate and land reclamation projects in West An-Nubariyah. It is scheduled to leave Cairo for home tomorrow morning at the conclusion of its 5-day visit here.

Delegation Concludes Visit

NC170729 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA) — Romanian minister Ion Stanescu, head of the Department for Construction Abroad, and his delegation left Cairo this morning following a 5-day visit during which they met with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, acting prime minister and foreign minister.

More Security at Lagos Embassy Requested

NC162031 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The Egyptian Foreign Ministry today sent a memorandum to the Nigerian Foreign Ministry concerning the burglary which took place at the Egyptian Embassy in Lagos. In this memorandum, Egypt urged the Nigerian Government to double security precautions around the embassy and houses of embassy personnel.

Council Member Killed in Reported Feud

NC161138 Cairo MENA in English 1130 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Al-Jizah, June 16 (MENA) — Member of the Consultative Council and former governor of Al-Jizah 'Abd al-Fattah 'Azzam was killed today by an unidentified gunman while leaving his home. The assassination was apparently due to an old feud between the 'Azzam family and other neighbouring families.

Investigation Continuing Into Factory Blast

NC172042 Cairo MENA in English 2000 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, June 17 (MENA) — The North Cairo Prosecution resumed today its investigation into the circumstances and involvements of the explosion incident which had taken place last Thursday at Military Factory "27". The prosecution interrogated the factory's security director, senior officials, and workers, who are in charge of transportation and handling of gunpowder and explosives, on the circumstances of the incident.

AL-AHRAM on Israel's Rejection of UN Proposal

NC180757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-AHRAM* affirms that Israel's attempts to avoid facing the real Palestinian side on any level that it may be represented or avoid facing the issue in whatever framework it may be discussed will ultimately be of no avail so long as these attempts are not based on a sound rule, which is mutual recognition of legitimate rights.

Commenting on Israel's rejection of the UN secretary general's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East, *AL-AHRAM* says that the aim is clear behind Israel's request to hold direct negotiations with each Arab party separately.

It says that Israel does not want to face the Palestinians or the issue itself at an international conference. It hopes to create a local Palestinian facade with whom it will ostensibly negotiate to reach a solution — a facade that will agree now and in the futurewith its permanent policy.

Concluding, *AL-AHRAM* says: Peace cannot be imposed by force. Even if it is negotiated in proper conditions, as happened with Egypt, it must be based on one rule, which is mutual recognition of legitimate rights. Any deviation from this rule gives Israel something for nothing.

AL-AHRAM Issues International Edition by Satellite

NC181036 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] London, June 18 (AFP) — Egypt's biggest daily, the mass circulation *AL-AHRAM*, brought out its first international edition here today for distribution across Europe, using satellite transmission from Cairo.

The 16-page broadsheet-size edition, in Arabic, was largely similar to that with a circulation of up to half a million in Egypt, but with slight changes for people living in Europe.

Television programmes were those for British channels, and frequencies were given for radio programmes in Arabic to be heard in Europe.

The paper, the latest in a growing number using satellite techniques, called its move in a front page editorial an "historic event."

Briefs

Japanese Ambassador Ends Tour— Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, acting prime minister, today received Yosuke Nakae, Japanese ambassador to Cairo, as the latter's tour to Egypt is coming to an end. Nakae has been reassigned as his country's ambassador to China. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 16 Jun 84 NC]

Minister Reacts to Hashemi-Rafsanjani Statement

JN160958 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — Iraq has empahsized that it does not see anything new in the statements which Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the so-called Iranian Consultative Council, made yesterday on the issue of navigation in the Arab Gulf.

In response to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements, Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim told INA that Iraq does not deal with ambiquous statements. He added that Iran still insists on war, aggression, and interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and the region's countries.

The information minister pointed out that Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements on not attacking ships are ambiguous and that he has to clarify these statements. He said: If he means that Iraq should abstain from attacking the Iranian ships without fully guaranteeing Iraq's rights to use its ports and waterways and its legitimate right to free navigation, Iraq absolutely rejects this and will certainly continue to attack.

Jasim added: If Iran wishes to express a new position, its officials must accurately and plainly define their stand toward UN Security Council Resolution No 540, which was issued at the end of October last year and which dealt with this issue in a comprehensive manner that guarantees the rights and interests of all sides.

Iran Shells Civilian Targets 16 June

JN161648 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1625 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Despite the agreement reached through the UN secretary general to avoid bombing purely civilian areas, the criminal Iranian regime — which does not honor pledges and which persists in doing harm and in committing aggression — shelled Sayyid Sadiq village today between 0950 and 1145. Some 15 artillery shells were fired at the village, wounding one of the inhabitants and heavily damaging two houses.

We are making this announcement in order to draw the attention of the United Nations and the world public to this blatant violation of the agreement, and to warn that the Iranian regime's continued violation of the agreement will compel us to reply in kind.

[Dated] 16 June 1984.

Tariq 'Aziz Invites UN Observers to Baghdad

JN161717 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — Iraq today agreed to the measures UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed in order to observe the implementation of the agreement with Iran concerning the ban on bombing civilian areas. This came in a message which Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, addressed to the secretary general today.

Tariq 'Aziz said in his message: Kindly instruct the commissioned team to immediately proceed to Baghdad in order to undertake its tasks as soon as possible. The agreement banning the bombing of civilian targets went into effect last Tuesday.

More on Observer Invitation

JN161754 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jun (INA) — Iraq has asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to inform the UN Security Council that the Iranian regime violated the agreement to not bomb civilian areas by directing artillery fire on Sayyid Sadiq village earlier today.

In a message to the secretary general today, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz asked Mr Perez de Cuellar to expedite the dispatch of the commissioned team of observers to Iraq in order to investigate the Iranian regime's continued shelling of civilian areas.

Tariq 'Aziz warned against the Iranian regime's continued violation of the agreement, and said that this "will compel us to reply in kind." He added: Despite the agreement reached through you to not bomb civilian targets, the Iranian regime, which has always proven that it does not honor pledges and that it persists in doing harm and in committing aggression, shelled Sayyid Sadiq village between 0550 and 0745 GMT this morning. Some 15 artillery shells were fired at the village, wounding one of the inhabitants and heavily damaging two houses.

Iraq, Iran Agree to Cease-Fire Monitoring

LD151745 Kuwait KUNA in English 1645 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] United Nations, June 15 (KUNA) — Iran and Iraq have agreed to the setting up of two observer teams to monitor the limited cease-fire between the two countries, the secretary-general said Friday.

The three-member delegations would each consist of two members of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation [UNTSO) and one senior U.N. official, he said in a letter to the president to the Security Council.

The teams have been established Friday, but will proceed to the respective country only on request by the governments, he said.

The nationalities of the team members have not been disclosed, and it could not be learnt from which country they would be operating.

The mandate of the two teams would be to verify the June 10 agreement between Iran and Iraq to halt air and military bombardments of each other's cities beginning midnight Monday.

In his letter, the secretary-general expressed satisfaction that there have not been any incidents so far this week.

"The teams," the secretary-general said, "would report to me, and it is my intention to keep the Security Council informed of their findings as required and in a timely manner.

"I would, of course, request assurances from the two governments that they will provide the necessary conditions of safety for the teams while they are in areas subject to hostilities," Perez de Cuellar said.

The Security Council was scheduled to meet in private later Friday to discuss the matter.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Threatens 'Crushing Blow' to Khark

JN180700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0523 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jun (INA) — The newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that Iraq now has all the weapons that will enable it to deal a crushing blow to Khark Island and its installations.

In its editorial today, the paper affirms that Iraq will not hesitate to direct such a blow at the appropriate time.

AL-JUMHURIYAH explains that this is the appropriate reply to the Iranians for continuing their war against Iraq and for depriving Iraq of its legitimate right to the freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf and to the full use of its ports and waterways.

The paper says that Iraq has placed the Iranian rulers in a fatal trap prior to dealing a crushing blow to them.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that the Iranians have tried to impose an economic blockade on Iraq, but Iraq has hit back and imposed a successful, tight blockade that has strangulated the Iranian economy and prevented the Iranian rulers from financing their war machine from the revenues of the oil that is exported through Khark Island.

Concluding its editorial, the paper affirms that the Iranians will not get out of their dilemma unless they guarantee all Iraq's shipping rights in the Arab Gulf.

ATH-THAWRAH Warns of Strikes at Selected Targets

JN170715 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0515 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jun (INA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* warns the Iranian rulers against continuing with their shelling of Iraqi cities. The paper says that this will compel Iraq to reply in a manner that will be fiercer and stronger than ever before, by striking at selected targets deep inside Iranian territory. Commenting on Iran's violation of the agreement banning the shelling of cities and its shelling of Sayyid Sadiq yesterday, the paper says that this act of aggression reaffirms that the Iranian regime does not respect its commitments and pays no heed to any international agreement or charter.

The paper explains that in spite of this new Iranian aggression, Iraq has abided by the agreement that was concluded through the UN secretary general and only wishes to draw the attention of the UN General Secretariat and world public opinion to the matter.

ATH-THAWRAH stresses that this commitment stems from a position of strength and capability and demonstrates a sense of responsibility toward the Iranian peoples, their security and their stability.

The paper emphasizes that any recurrence of the Iranian aggression will give Iraq a legitimate reason for carrying out deterring and decisive military activities, and for dealing destructive blows at Iran's vital targets.

Third Army Commander Ar-Rashid Expects Attack

LD170843 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jun (KUNA) — In a statement published here today, a senior Iraqi military commander stated that he thinksit is likely Iraq would carry out a preemptive attack against Iranian positions if necessary. He stressed that they are fully prepared to crush any Iranian attack and wipe out all the attackers, whatever their number.

Staff Major General Mahir 'Abd ar-Rashid, commander of the Iraqi Third Army in the southern sector said, in a field interview with *AL-ANBA'*, that Iraq is now prepared to face all eventualities and its Armed Forces are determined this time to wipe out the attackers, not just wound them, even if their numbers reach 1 million fighters.

He added that Iran has amassed between 150,000 and 200,000 troops facing the Iraqi forces in the southern sector in readiness to launch an attack. He said that the Western media have exaggerated the numbers of the Iranian troops, which was not over 200,000 soldiers and volunteers, according to evidence available to Iraq. The Iraqi commander stressed that whatever the Iranians amassed, their fate will be complete obliteration, not merely another battle defeat as they are accustomed to.

The Iraqi commander said that the nature of Iranian concentrations and provocations give an impression that the assault will take place within days, and that Iran has received weapons from America, Israel, North Korea, Syria, and Libya. He stressed that Iraq recently received new and sophisticated Russian weapons and is still receiving other quantities from it. He added that the most significant of these weapons are the surface-to-surface missiles, which have enormous destructive power, "and all of them will be waiting for the Iranian human masses in their forthcoming assault."

Regarding the recent request connected with halting the shelling of towns, he said: "The request of the Iranian leadership did not stem from their love of peace and unwillingness to expose defenseless civilians to the catastrophic destruction of war, but from the destruction which their border towns, hinterland, and economic establishment suffered."

He expressed his conviction that Iran would adhere to what it agreed to because Iran "knows only the language of immediate and powerful deterrence."

Asked if he believes Iran's request to stop the shelling of towns is a beginning for Iran to sit at the negotiating table, Major General Mahir said: "I do not believe so, for their request to stop shelling towns was the result of the strong Iraqi deterrence on the field and in the hinterland." He went on to say that with this they want to touch the sentiments of international organizations and some countries that now are carrying out their good offices to stop the war.

Armed Forces General Command Communiques

No 1,497 — 15 June

JN151611 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA) — An Iraqi military communique has stated that during the past 24 hours the Iranian Armed Forces suffered two killed and one infantry position destroyed in the Maysan and northern sectors.

Communique No 1,497 issued by the Armed Forces General Command today added that an Iraqi forward unit shelled enemy targets opposite its positions in the operational sector east of Basra, setting fire to some of the enemy's equipment. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,497 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our intrepid Armed Forces continue their courageous activities against the forces of the expansionist Iranian enemy. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units pounded several enemy positions in the northern sector of the battlefield with all types of weapons, killing one soldier, and destroying two infantry positions, whose occupants were also killed.

2. One of our forward units shelled several enemy targets opposite its positions in the operational sector east of Basra, setting fire to some of the enemy's equipment, positions, and weapons emplacements.

3. One was killed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 Jun 1984.

No 1,498 — 16 June

JN161818 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,498 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 16 June 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Whenever the Iranian rulers become reckless and savage, continue war and aggression against our brave country, and thereby harm our brave people, they will be made to pay a heavy price and to lick the bitter taste of punishment and humiliation. The results for last night and this morning are as follows:

1. Confirming its rancorous, harmful behavior, continued aggression; and disregard for international norms, pacts, and pledges, the criminal Iranian regime shelled the village of Sayyid Sadiq between 0950 and 1145 today with heavy artillery. Some 15 artillery shells fell on the village, wounding one of the civilian inhabitants and heavily damaging two houses.

2. One of our frontline units in the central operational sector used artillery and various types of other weapons to attack enemy positions and troop concentrations in the area. Five of the enemy were killed, and one 106-mm gun and four infantry positions were destroyed.

3. One of our frontline units in the northern operational sector spotted an enemy troop concentration ahead of it and attacked it with various weapons. Four of the enemy were killed; four infantry positions, one arms depot, and one antiaircraft position were destroyed.

4. One infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the sector east of Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 June 1984.

No 1,499 — 17 June

JN171656 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Communique No 1,499 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 17 June 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With high spirits and increasing enthusiasm, the brave sons of our Armed Forces are continuing their valiant confrontation of the Iranian aggressors. The results of their activities for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. On of our forward units fired on two enemy boats opposite our positions east of Basra and managed to destroy one of them and to drown four enemy troops. Elsewhere in the same sector, one enemy soldier was killed, and three observation posts, one weapons emplacement, and two hardware stockpiles were destroyed.

2. One of our forward units opened fire on an enemy patrol which tried to approach our forward positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killing two and forcing the rest to flee.

3. One was killed and one infantry position was destroyed with its occupants either killed or wounded in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our helicopter gunships destroyed one enemy observation post and killed its occupants in the same sector.

4. One infantry position was destroyed in the Maysan sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 June 1984

King Husayn Interviewed on U.S., Gulf War, Israel

JN180931 Amman Television Service in English
2013 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Interview with King Husayn from undisclosed location in Amman by correspondents Anthony Howard of Independent Television, Patrick Seale of *THE OBSERVER*, and Robert Fisk of *THE TIMES*; date, place not given — live or recorded.]

[Text] [Howard] Sir, could I begin by asking you about the present state of your relations with America? You said, I think in March, that in an election year there were grave difficulties in having dealings with the United States, and you said that it was pursuing double standards in the Middle East. Has anything that has happened since caused you to change your mind or do you still despair of any American initiative this side of an election?

[Husayn] I don't think there is any chance of any American initiative this side of an election and probably even beyond that.

[Seale] Sir, as early as February, as recently as February, you were in Washington and you saw the President with President Mubarak of Egypt, I think, and you both at that time endorsed the President's initiative, and suddenly in March we have this sharp and bitter attack on American policies. At the same time, since then you repeatedly called for a Soviet role in the peace process. And the question I'd like to ask is, why the sudden switch from February to March and since, secondly, of course, what role do you see the Russians playing and isn't the fact that the Russians and the Americans are on such bad terms, isn't this a recipe for failure for any peace conference?

[Husayn] Well, to begin with, we have always been for an international conference for the Security Council, possibly the permanent members of the Security Council playing a role in any solution. After all, the cornerstone of any solution is Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and the Geneva conference. Beyond that, we welcomed the President's initiative. I believe we were responsible for keeping it alive all this long. It was shot down by Israel, its rejection of it, and by all the actions that ensured, both in Lebanon and in the occupied territories and that was really where we were — plus the election year.

[Seale] But what role do you see for the Soviets?

[Husayn] I believe that the Soviets have the right to be involved in any process leading to the solution. I believe that they and other permanent members of the Security Council, together with all the parties concerned in the area, should be involved.

[Fisk] Sir, can I turn briefly to the Iraq-Iran war. Four years ago you gave Jordan's support to President Saddam Husayn of Iraq in the war against Iran. Now the Iraqi regime has locked up, imprisoned, in some cases tortured and killed, many hundreds of their own people. Can you explain to us how it is that Jordan, which appears to be a very moderate state, should give its support to such a regime?

[Husayn] In the first place, I don't believe that this is the occasion to discuss which regime committed what against its people. Because if we were to do so, I don't think if we take the two sides that you could say anything of Iraq and you could probably say a lot more of Iran. But beyond that, the issue is not what the attitudes are in terms of internal problems — not that. It really is a question of Iran waging this war, I believe, with the aim of creating a rift among Muslims, Shi'ites, and Sunnis, which would not only be a threat to Iraq, but to the entire area. At the same time we are members of the Arab League and we are living by the Charter of the League in supporting an Arab country that is threatened, as well as living up to our committments as signatories to the joint defense agreement. Beyond that, you know that Iraq is right in this issue. If it is a question of resolving the problem it's very easy to have a negotiated [settlement]. Iraq has been willing to do so all along. And the other element, of course, in terms of relations between the two countries, is mutual respect and noninterference in the affairs of each other. But, unfortunately, this hasn't happened.

[Fisk] Do you think, sir, that Iraq can win the war or sustain the Iranian attacks, because to us outside the region, it looks very often as if the Iranians are on the point of going right inside Iraq. And this would presumably be a pretty grim situation for you here in Jordan, wouldn't it?

[Husayn] I think it would be a grim situation if it ever occurred for everybody in this area, for the Arabs, for their identity, for their freedom, for their future. But, this is not what makes a difference, We stand on principle and we stand with a country we believe is responsive to every attempt to negotiate a settlement to the problem and we believe that they are on the right and so we stand by them.

[Seale] I was interested to hear you talk about this rift between the the Shi'as and Sunnis, the danger of this rift getting worse. Do you see any possible Arab initiative to improve relations between Sunnis and Shi'a as a contribution toward ending this war?

[Husayn] I don't think there is a problem within the Arab world, so to speak. But, unfortunately, it is forced upon us by this war. And...

[Seale, interrupting] It's a problem in Lebanon as well as in the Gulf, of course...

[Husayn] In Lebanon you see shades of it, but I believe if Iran had its way, what we could see in this area is something far worse that the nightmare that we have lived through so far in Lebanon.

[Howard] You mean sectarian conflict in Iraq?

[Husayn] That is a very strong possibility, not in Iraq, but in the area.

[Howard] It's sometimes suggested, sir, by people outside, that you simply backed the wrong horse, that you thought at the beginning that Iraq was going to win and that you therefore got on the winning side. There's no truth in that?

[Husayn] Sir, we have a record. We stood by Egypt in 1967 when we knew full well what the results were likely to be, because we were members of the League, because we had a situation where an Arab country was attacked and we had to live up to our commitments. I'm not backing any horse, winner or loser. In this one I am standing with the people in fulfillment of my obligations as an Arab and at the same time standing on a matter of principle. We support them fully.

[Fisk] Sir, if in fact the Iranians made further progress into Iraq, where would the moment come where you felt it your duty as an ally and a supporter of Iraq to send Jordanian troops to help the Iraqis?

[Husayn] Fortunately, the Iraqis have never needed Jordanian troops to help them on their soil.

[Fisk] But, if they did?

[Husayn] If there was a need we would send them. It's not up to me to determine when or how.

[Fisk] Would you, if requested, also send Jordanian troops to the Gulf states if, for instance, they felt a fear of aggression by Iran? Would you be prepared to send Jordanian troops there? In fact, is that what you discussed with them on your recent trip to Kuwait and Bahrain?

[Husayn] We discussed the situation and the dangers and we are very clear insofar as the fact that we are committed to help our brethren any time, anywhere, wherever their freedom is in jeopardy or they are threatened.

[Fisk] And that would involve sending Jordanian troops if they are requested and if they...

[Husayn, interrupting] This has happened in the past and it will happen again if ever we reach that point, yes.

[Fisk] If they requested it, you would send Jordanian troops.

[Husayn] Yes.

[Seale] Your Majesty, I know your government is very preoccupied with the concern with the major project now on the drawing board of the pipeline from Kirkuk in Iraq to your own port of Aqaba. This is to give you a supply of cheap oil, I presume. But I also know that you would have to foot most of the bill. It's a billion-dollar project — a thousand million. I think the Jordanian share will be something like $700 million. This project would, of course, depend on Israel giving assurances that it wouldn't attack the pipeline. What importance, what value would you give to any assurances by the Israeli Government that it wouldn't attack this pipeline.

[Husayn] First of all, I don't see why they would have any right to attack a pipeline. In any event, if we look at the oil situation, if we look at the nations immediately affected, you would probably take Europe, and Japan, on the other hand, in the terms of this crisis in the Gulf. We are hopeful that there will be many alternates for oil to pass through to where it is needed, other than the Hormuz Straits or in addition to the Hormuz Straits. And as far as Iraq is concerned, I believe they are seeking ways of exporting oil through Saudi Arabia, through Jordan, in addition to Turkey. Unfortunately, the Syrian pipeline is closed and the discussions are with an American firm, but also with many other countries that have firms with an interest in being involved. And I believe that the sooner this pipeline is constructed, if the decision is taken, the closer we are to a time when Iran might think twice about the futility of continuing the war and a blockade of Iraqi oil.

[Howard] On the subject of Israel, can I just ask you whether the next few weeks and month-and-a-half, whatever it is, is going to be a very difficult time for you? You have, I think, indicated that you look forward with hope to a Labor victory, but is it really helpful for you, as a monarch of a kingdom adjoining, not on the best of terms, to make your feelings that well known?

[Husayn] I was watching, as we all do, with great interest and probably with greater concern than most in this area what has been happening. And I found it very interesting that the opposition in Israel is far more moderate, and this is in itself an interesting phenomenon, because it is the difference between the opposition and the government. Now, they have their elections coming up. If they do succeed, that signifies a change in public opinion in terms of their attitudes to a variety of matters. This is, as far as it goes...

[Howard, interrupting] I was only trying to establish whether you weren't playing into the hands of the Likud, the present government, by making your feelings as well known as you've made here today, even.

[Husayn] No, I was asked my opinion and...

[Howard, interrupts] You gave it.

[Husayn]...and I gave the answer.

[Fisk] Sir, can we come to one of the whole points about Israel? Mainly I'm talking about the Palestinians. We've watched over the past year numerous missions, delegations from the PLO come here to Amman. We've seen Mr 'Arafat come and go and come and go and speak to you. And yet, somehow, they never quite seem to get their act together. We never actually hear Mr 'Arafat say: Listen, I give the king of Jordan a mandate to negotiate for us over the West Bank. I really have two questions for you on this. And that is, the first one is, what do you really think Mr 'Arafat wants? What can he offer you to put forward in the negotiating table? And secondly, isn't it a bit frustrating for you to have the leader of the PLO coming and going from Amman and nothing seems to happen at the end of it?

[Husayn] Well, to begin with, there is nothing that is on at the moment. I mean in terms of all of our past efforts...

[Fisk, interrupting] But why not?

[Husayn] We have an election in the United States. It's fairly obvious that the United States has chosen to establish an alliance with Israel. Therefore it's unable to play the role that all of us might have thought it was possible for the United States to play as the superpower, as the mediator, fair and evenhanded in this issue. The Soviets on the other hand have an alliance with Syria.

We're groping to see what could be done. We believe that the only way is to go back to origins, to go back to the Security Council, to go back to the five permanent members of the Security Council, and all the parties concerned. In the meantime, we have a situation on the ground which is really almost hopeless.

[Seale] Are you really saying that the West Bank is probably lost then?

[Husayn] I'm not saying it's lost, but I think that it's as close to that as one can go.

[Seale] Your Majesty, one sees in the area various attempts at regional groupings. For example, in the Gulf you've got the Gulf Cooperation Council of those six states. In North Africa, we had some sort of getting together there, the getting together of Egypt and Sudan in the Nile Valley. Now, do you think in your part of the world here, in the Levant, do you think, do you see any prospect of yourself and the Syrians and the Lebanese and the Palestinians getting together, and don't you feel there's an overriding interest for these various parties to get together if they are ever successfully to press their claims against Israel?

[Husayn] I think that eventually these claims won't be lost. By virtue of what is happening, by virtue of the strength of Israel on the ground, if there is no solution, I am afraid that sooner or later we intend to rectify the situation. And, unfortunately, the dangers are enormous to all of us, to generations to come beyond us.

[Seale] I was really trying to get you to comment on your relations with Syria.

[Husayn] As far as Syria is concerned sir, our differences with them have been over issues, not personal differences, and we are always hopeful that we can resolve these problems. They are related to Lebanon, the Iraq-Iran war, even the PLO.

[Seale] Do you see some improvement, sir?

[Husayn] I hope so. We are always hopeful that there will be improvement.

[Seale] And do you feel that a negotiation with Israel can take place without the Syrians?

[Husayn] I believe, sir, that if we are to find a solution, it should be a comprehensive settlement that we seek. It should be a lasting peace involving all concerned.

[Fisk] And can I come back to Mr 'Arafat again, sir.? What do you think Mr 'Arafat's after? Why the delay from him? We understand why the delay...

[Husayn interrupting] Mr 'Arafat is trying to get his group together. I have appealed to him time and again to do all he could to represent the hopes and aspirations of the people of the occupied territories. That is part of the problem that occurred with our friends in the United States recently because we were trying to see if pressure could be exerted on Israel to help people.

Israel alleges time and again that these people should have their freedom to talk with Israelis even. [as heard] Give them the freedom to express themselves. The PLO has to...PLO...a liberation organization. Liberate what? Liberate these people! They are the constituency. They are the strength.

There was talk of a PNC meeting and there were attempts for many of these people to come out and attend this meeting and maybe reshape the thinking and the direction of the PLO. But, unfortunately, that wasn't even possible.

[Fisk] So the unity of the PLO is the heart of one of the problems, is it?

[Husayn] It is partly a problem, but who's jeopardizing that or making it impossible to be achieved? Israel on the one hand and some of the extreme elements on our side on the other.

[Fisk] But on your side, don't you feel occasionally the need perhaps to take Mr 'Arafat to one side and tell him — perhaps you have and you can tell us — 'Abu Ammar, this simply isn't going to work. We need results and we need them quickly. Do you never feel the need to say that to him?

[Husayn] I, uh...

[Fisk] Or have you said it? [Laughs]

[Husayn] I probably have said it. Yes, I say it, I say it to everyone. Time is passing, time is dangerous in terms of the fact that with every day, new realities are created that are obstacles in the path of peace.

[Seale] Perhaps he simply can't deliver. Perhaps his movement is too divided.

[Husayn] To be fair he hasn't been given a chance, either. There is nothing that the PLO has been offered.

[Seale] That's right. Could we ask you to speculate aloud, as it were, about future Arab relations with Israel? Imagine that there were some sort of territorial settlement. It's often said the Israelis need reassurance about the Arabs' ultimate objectives. Now, how would you envisage such relations?

[Husayn] Sir, the equation is very simple. It was worked out in 1967. Withdrawal for peace, total withdrawal for total peace, peace in the proper sense, peace that this area has never really experienced, the people in it have never experienced, Israelis and Arabs alike. That's what I am talking about.

[Seale] You're talking about frontiers, free trade...

[Husayn] Any possibility and all possibilities are there.

[Fisk] But do you think, sir, that after all these years of war, even after Lebanon, that there will not be such bitterness in so many people, including the Israelis, after what's happened — and I particularly think of Lebanon because so many people have died there recently — don't you think that in fact even after a territorial settlement there will then be other issues which will weigh down and break up the process of peace, that perhaps we're looking at a false phenomenon when we think, oh well, if there's a Palestine, everything's going to be all right?

[Husayn] This is not the point. The point is that what we are talking [about] in this area, the close proximities, there is no security, security is a state of mind. It is a feeling by both sides that they've got something worth keeping, something worth preserving. This is what we have been searching for all along.

[Seale] Your Majesty, can we still describe you as a pro-Western moderate or should we describe you as a despairing, nonaligned radical, perhaps?

[Husayn] No, sir. I have always prided myself throughout my life on being an Arab and a Jordanian. And as far as I am concerned, I really hope that this area will not be polarized. I fought that over a long period of time. But we work with everybody, we try our best to make progress towards...

[Howard, interrupting] Let's pick up an interesting point on that. After your interview in *THE NEW YORK TIMES*, I think it was, the whole Stinger negotiation of getting those Stinger missiles fell to the ground, I think, and was withdrawn by the administration and, anyway, you said you wouldn't have asked them if you'd known they'd have to go and beg to get them. And so it was just both sides said, no thanks. Where are you going to buy those weapons now? Are you looking elsewhere?

[Husayn] We're looking elsewhere and we're looking...

[Howard, interrupting] To Britain?

[Husayn] We are looking very clearly to our American friends and to others around the world. We're looking in Europe. We're looking in the Soviet Union...

[Howard, interrupting] And in Britain?

[Husayn] We're looking in China, in Britain. We're looking everywhere, sir. And we will see what we will come up with.

[Howard] If you were to end up buying arms from the Soviet Union, wouldn't that have a sort of adjustment impact on your position as perceived by other people?

[Husayn] I've maintained all along that our requirements for our legitimate self-defense have to be met. I think we have acted in good faith throughout many years. The Stinger was a problem, obviously, but Stinger was part of our air defense requirements. We were hoping that we could resolve the advanced Hawk batteries. Our Hawk batteries are still anchored to the ground. We were seeking aircraft, possibly F-16's, F-20's. Stinger was the least problematic and we failed there. We have to look not for a replacement of Stinger, but our air defense requirements in an area where we are threatened.

Israel has the best equipment the United States can produce. Syria has the best the Soviets can produce. And we have not only our legitimate self-defense here, but our responsibilities in responding to the needs of others in the area, in Lebanon, the Gulf, and elsewhere.

[Howard] When you look at Syria today, do you ever feel that they chose the right superpower to be associated with, and you, perhaps, made the wrong choice?

[Husayn] I wouldn't have had it any other way. One had to try, one had to keep trying, and, as far as the United States is concerned, we will have to keep trying. I mean, the fact that we don't buy arms from there — and this is a decision we have made, to diversify, to minimize our reliance on the United States in the field of arms — ... but nonetheless, we know that it's a very, very important arena and we'll have to keep trying our best with our cause, to persuade people of its justice.

[Fisk] Sir, can I just look at Jordan for a moment? Most people in the West, I think, will regard it as a very liberal, a very open society, and not without reason. But we know that some Israelis talk of Jordan as being the state of Palestine that might come about. Isn't there a great fear in your mind that one day the Palestinians, whether driven or perhaps of their own volition, will cross the bridge and come here and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will become the State of Palestine? Isn't this a fear for you at the moment?

[Husayn] No matter what happens, Arab and Muslim rights in Palestine will never be forgotten. And this is basically the issue. The Israelis say that for 17 years people are denied the right to reach in Jerusalem some of the holy places. This may be true. Unfortunately, it was linked to another part of an agreement for Christians and Arabs to be able to go to Nazareth, which didn't happen for 17 years. But now also, for another 17 years Muslims and Arabs throughout the world have been denied the right to carry out their tradition of their pilgrimage to Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem. This situation is intolerable, sir. It can't go on forever.

[Seale] You say total peace for total withdrawal...

[Husayn] Yes.

[Seale] I mean, what if the withdrawal were partial, not total. What would offer then?

[Husayn] I've said time and again, sir, that I could never bargain over an inch of Palestinian territory or in the matter of Palestinian rights. This has been my position throughout the years.

[Seale] So it's back to the 6-day war frontiers or nothing?

[Husayn] 1967 frontiers, minor rectifications on a reciprocal basis, Jerusalem to be the symbol and essence of peace, but Arab rights in Jerusalem obviously have to be recognized in terms of sovereignty over the Arab part of the city.

[Seale] You think this is still a credible objective in spite of what has happened on the West Bank in the last few years?

[Husayn] As credible as the Israel objective that Jordan is Palestine.

[Fisk] And you don't think that will ever happen, that Jordan will become Palestine?

[Husayn] I don't think it can happen, in the same way we can't give up rights over it.

[Fisk] Do you think you will go to Jerusalem again in your lifetime?

[Husayn] I don't know. I don't know. I can't tell you.

[Fisk] You really don't think at all that there is a possibility, do you?

[Husayn] I think I have the same conviction that I had years ago, that people had common sense, that people really could think of not only the moment, but the future. By years, I mean 1967 onwards. I think with every passing year, with every...well ...now it's 17 years since it happened...and I seemed to become more and more convinced that it's going to take much more than that.

[Fisk] And if you went to Jerusalem, what sort of state of Palestine would you like to pass through on the way?

[Husayn] A free Palestine, where people enjoy the rights that have been denied them for far too long.

[London Independent Television Network in English at 1643 GMT on 17 June carried the above interview with the following additional 10 paragraphs in its broadcast:]

[Howard] Wonder if I could ask you a question about your own role in Jordan? I was looking the other day at a television interview you gave, I think, nearly a quarter of a century ago to John Freeman. And you said there that you thought in not too much time you would cease to be what we call an absolute monarch and you'd become a constitutional monarch, much more like our own queen. That hasn't happened, has it? Why do you think it's taken all this time and why do you think the progress toward democracy in Jordan has been so slow?

[Husayn] I think we have come a long way and I think that we have faced more upheavals and more crises and more challenges in the last few years than many nations of the world have throughout longer periods in their history. Nonetheless, Jordanians have been able to cope, not only that, but their dedication, their vision, their realism is an inspiration, not only to me but to many I believe.

[Howard] Not being rude, but could you settle down after all these years? I mean, if it all came to pass, could you ever settle down to being a constitutional monarch. Wouldn't you be too used to being an absolute ruler?

[Husayn] If people would have me that way, I'd enjoy it very much, indeed if it were possible.

[Seale] Listening to you sir, one feels that your basic posture is defensive in the face of a hostile world — hostile Israel, hostile Arab neighbors, and so forth. Now, we all must hope that a negotiation will take place in the near future. Do you feel that you are ready for a negotiation and, indeed, that the Arabs are ready for a serious negotiation?

[Husayn] I have been ready for negotiations, as have we for a long period of time, but the problem is on what foundation, what basis? This is where we have not [word indistinct]...

[Seale] Do you feel that differences between the Arab states would disappear if a genuine negotiation were offered?

[Husayn] Yes, with the right framework and negotiation, not over principles, negotiation to implement principles: the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, territory for peace, a solution to the palestinian problem, [resolution]242.

[Seale] You say negotiations to draw Israel's frontiers once and for all?

[Husayn] Yes.

[Howard] Have you had any indication at all from the Israeli Labor party that they might be able to do business with you? Have you had any messages from Mr Peres?

[Husayn] Nothing beyond what we have seen and heard about it.

[Howard] But how optimistic do you feel? Is July going to be a very crucial month?

[Husayn] I don't know sir, I really don't know. We'll have to wait and see. It is a crucial month, obviously as is another month in this year, later on, but from one election to another that's not...

[Howard] And if the present Israeli Government is reelected, you will then say nothing can happen?

[Husayn] I think that's a fair assumption, yes.

[Howard] King Husayn, thank you very much for facing the press.

Royal Decree Issued on Oil Agreement With Iraq

JN171235 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jun 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] Amman — A senior official in the Trade and Industry Ministry has stated that the Iraqi crude oil which was contracted from fraternal Iraq on 23 April covers one-sixth of Jordan's oil reserves for this year. He pointed out that Jordan's import of oil stands at approximately 8500 metric tons per day. The official told *AD-DUSTUR* that Jordan's oil purchases totaled $630 million. Based on this figure, the Iraqi oil deal is estimated to be worth $110 million.

According to this agreement, Iraq will export about 1300 metric tons of crude oil per day to Jordan. A royal decree has been issued ratifying the cabinet decision which approved the agreement between the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments concerning the export of Iraqi crude oil to Jordan as follows:

Agreement Between The Government of the Iraqi Republic and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

On the basis of the brotherly relations, and to further the economic and trade ties between the two fraternal countries, the Government of the Iraqi Republic and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan have agreed on the following:

Article 1: The Government of the Iraqi Republic will export crude oil to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Contracts for preparing the crude oil will be drawn up between the concerned bodies in both countries.

Article 2: The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will cover the value of the crude oil referred to in Article 1 above, by providing the following:

Industrial and animal products of Jordanian origin included in the attached list.

Jordanian invisible exports to Iraq, which include the services of Jordanian contractors, air services, and earnings of Jordanian ministries and establishments resulting from services rendered to Iraq.

The expenses and wages for the Iraqi Land Transport Company resulting from its services in Jordan, and the expenses of Iraqi students and trainees in Jordan.

Any other Iraqi official commitments in Jordan which have been pre-arranged between the two Central Banks.

Article 3: The Iraqi Central Bank and the Jordanian Central Bank will agree to open the necessary accounts and to sign new banking arrangements as soon as possible to implement this agreement. The arrangements to facilitiate payment signed between the two Central Banks on 21 December 1983 will remain in force.

Article 4: This agreement is effective until 31 December 1984 and is renewed automatically unless one side notifies the other of its desire to terminate the agreement in a period not less than two months. In this case, the commitments resulting from this agreement remain in effect until they are settled.

Article 5: There will be a meeting in December this year to evaluate this agreement.

Article 6: The accounts indicated in this agreement do not carry any interest, commissions, or expenses.

Article 7: All contracts within the framework of this agreement will be made in U.S. dollars. In case of presenting manifests and documents in the local currency, they will be converted to U.S. dollars according to the rate of exchange declared by the Iraqi Central Bank and the Jordanian Central Bank on the date they are due and as the case may merit [as published].

Article 8: This agreement is effective as of the date of signature, 23 April 1984. The instrument for ratification of the agreement will be exchanged according to the constitutional principles followed by the two countries.

AD-DUSTUR had published the details of the Central Bank's memorandum to the commercial banks and local companies on the banking arrangements pertaining to the agreement.

Armed Forces Commander Leaves for Italy

JN171243 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Amman — Staff Lieutenant General Ash-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, left Amman for Italy today. He is heading a military delegation on a several day official visit, during which he will visit a number of military centers in response to an invitation from the Italian chief of staff.

He was seen off by Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff, his aides, and a number of Armed Forces senior officers.

Commentary Assesses Perez de Cuellar Tour

JN161828 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] After his week-long tour of the region, we think that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has reached a decison — maybe even a principled and firm decison — on the Arabs' sincere wish to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and on Israel's outright rejection of Arab and international peace proposals.

We had expected the Shamir government to adopt such a position. If it had adopted a positive position, it would have contravered the ideological principles of the Herut movement and its first mentor, (Jabotonski). Perez de Cuellar has aquainted himself with the details of the Israeli position, especially its position toward peace and toward the United Nations. This is a completely hostile position, and in harmony with the Shamir government's aggressive, expansionist directions and aspirations in defiance of international will. The Shamir government — which is a transitional government — was never expected to assume a responsive position toward the Arab and international wish for peace, because it rose to power on a wide platform of extermism and renewed its term on an even wider platform of extremism. It hopes to continue in power on this same platform after the 23 July elections.

The current situation in the region suits Israel more than ever before, as its leaders have admitted. It is not in any rush to look into any changes in the status quo in the Middle East. It remains for us to await the UN secretary general's next move, which is to acquaint the U.S. Administration with the results of his tour of four Arab countries and Israel. However, the facts do not merit any expectation that the U.S. Adminstration will adopt a position that conflicts with the rejectionist Israeli position, especially because this administration is also embarking on presidential elections this year. This makes it too weak to adopt an anti-Israeli position. Thus, the Middle East issue returns to the state of stalemate and waiting, despite the UN secretary general's attempt to revive it by convening an international peace conference. This met with the usual Israeli wall of intransigence.

Whatever the results of Perez de Cuellar's tour of the region, we believe in the need for moves on all levels in order to face the challenges and dangers being imposed by Israeli intransigence. There are still many options, and the scope for action is still open for any effort aimed at reviving the region's issues and moving toward the awaited solution. We hope the Arab countries will regain the initiative by establishing Arab solidarity that specifies solving the Middle East crisis on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 248 and 338 as its top priority.

There are still chances for Arab action — now more than before. It is necessary to not waste time collecting our winning cards during the Israeli and U.S. election year. The possible outcome of these elections requires a united Arab position and continued alertness to take up any chances that may come in the future to serve the Arab cause and find a suitable solution for it.

Jordan, which has been leading those who call for establishing Arab solidarity and reaching a unified pan-Arab positions, is still exerting its utmost efforts to achieve these things. They are the only available option on the pan-Arab level that would enable our nation to face the encroaching dangers and challenges from the ocean to the Gulf.

JORDAN TIMES on 'Jordanization' of Foreign Banks

JN171020 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 June 84 p 4

[Article by Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] Foreign banks were actually licensed to operate in Jordan in accordance with the provision of a bank law which explicitly stipulated in its Article 3 that branches of foreign banks may be licensed to operate in Jordan, and that they are exempted from taking the form of a shareholding company. The law expressly stated that foreign banks licensed to operate in Jordan prior to the enactment of this law are considered to be licensed according to the new law.

It was surprising that the decision of Jordanization was issued in Dec 27, 1983, by virture of the (Defence Law) under which an order was issued in 1978 which prohibited commercial enterprises unless Jordanians hold a minimum of 51 per cent of their equity.

Defence Law and emergency orders are of a general nature. They mean to protect the state and society from dangers that may threaten internal or external security. Clearly this threat does not apply to foreign banks, organised and licensed by a specific law called (Law of Banks No 24 for the year 1971) as amended by a temporary law No 5 for the year 1975, which governs this subject.

It is worth noting that the regular laws of banking in Jordan give the Central Bank the authority to withdraw the licence of any bank in case it did not comply with the law or regulations or wtih Central Bank orders. Hence, there was no justification to revert to (Defence Law) and related orders, which implies that the licensing and operation of the foreign banks in Jordan was illegal, and that this illegality was discovered after several years, and that we are ready to grant a grace period of three years for illegality.

However, when the previous government finally decided during its last week in office to Jordanise foreign banks, Grindlays Bank was happy to oblige. Grindlays management was willing to transform the bank into a Jordanian shareholding company.

The Central Bank drafted a time table for the transformation of foreign banks over three years, Grindlays Bank pointed out that they are the heir of Ottoman Bank, which is the oldest foreign bank in Jordan, and accordingly should have priority, in the process of Jordanisation.

The plans to convert Grindlays into a Jordanian public shareholding company are going ahead. The Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan) has been given mandate to manage the issue and underwrite the shares which will be offered for subscription by the public.

The plan calls for the establishment of a Jordanian shareholding company of which Grindlays head office will own 49 per cent of the shares, 10 per cent will be allocated to the five members of the bank's consultative council comprising five prominent Jordanian businessmen. The balance of 41 per cent will be floated to the public shortly.

The authorised and fully paid up capital of the new bank will be JD 6 million, divided into six million shares, the nominal value of each would be JD 1. However, these shares will be offered at a premium, the value of which to be determined after the reevalaution of all assets and liabilities of the bank by the competent authorities.

It is common knowledge that the bank carries certain doubtful debts, however, informed sources state that the bank has also accumulated substantial provisions for that purpose. All interest accrued on such debts were suspended and credited to a reserve account. All in all, they assert that the net real value of the bank may be in excess of the equity book value. Such situation justifies a premium, but the Ministry of Industry and Trade evaluation will not fail to decide this premium in a way which will render the shares attractive to the public.

All formalities to incorporate the bank are now ready, awaiting the approval of the ministry which is the authority having jurisdiction upon the establishment and registration of companies. The Central Bank will also assume its responsibilities, approve the prospectus and take necessary action to safeguard the rights of depositors and the obligations of the debtors.

The fact that Grindlays Bank Jordanisation is imminent does not necessarily imply that the process of Jordanisation of foreign banks will be comprehensive and according to schedule.

In January, the affected banks were required to come up with a definite plan and date for their compliance with the order. Certain banks replied that they will respond during 1985, and the Central Bank accepted their position. This means that the timing of Jordanisation during 1984 and 1985 remains optional.

It is expected that during these two years the Arab Land Bank (Egyptian) and Al-Mashriq Bank (Lebanese) will be Jordanised. The year 1986 which is the last of the three years period specified in the order will not be sufficient to establish many banking companies.

Local markets might not be able to absorb all the banking shares that will be offered for public subscription.

An interval of four months is the minimum to separate between any two such offerings. This will obviously open the door for extension of the period of Jordanization and having second thoughts in the interim. There is now a growing conviction that the Jordanisation of foreign banks in Jordan was a correct and proper decision from the national point of view. The objections are centred on the timing. It is very unfortunate that we failed to Jordanise our banking system during the financial and banking boom in the Middle East during 1979-1981.

It should be noted that the foreign banks were unable to seize a substanial portion of the banking activities in Jordan. Excluding Grindlays Bank, foreign banks carry as little as 12 per cent of Jordanian deposits and their relatively small share of the market is getting even smaller with time and without Jordanisation.

Karami MONDAY MORNING Interview Reported

NC171802 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has stated that certain parties on the ground might not desire an end the current situation. He pointed out that Israel is one of these parties that it is present on the ground in various forms, and that it occasionally seeks to exacerbate the situation. Karami added that what is being said about a big explosion discloses the ill intentions of certain parties. He ruled out the possibility that Syrian Forces will be allowed to enter into Suq al-Gharb and Beirut.

Prime Minister Karami said this in an interview to the weekly magazine *MONDAY MORNING*, which it will publish in tomorrow's edition. Following is the text of the interview:

Question: Now that the government has received the [Chamber of Deputies'] confidence and certain extraordinary powers, will you give priority to the security affairs, Army issues, economy, or political reforms, or to all these issues combined?

Answer: The fact is that we must begin settling all these issues together because they are all important and because people are impatiently waiting for their settlement. Action must begin by concentrating on the liberation, economy, reconstruction, and reforms. This way, the people will feel that their government is carrying out its tasks. We will start by rebuilding the Army and doing whatever is necessary in this regard to restore everyone's confidence in it. This requires the introduction of changes in its infrastructure, laws, and defense policy, which must reflect the national reality of the country. We must also charge the Army with performing its role in liberating the south, western Al-Biqa' and Rashayya from the Israeli occupation. The Army would then be able to carry out its role at the internal level by supporting the Internal Security Forces to strengthen our march toward a stable security, without which the country cannot achieve a serious and effective solution.

Question: All of the combatants are represented in the government. How do you explain the Black Monday [11 June] massacre? Who is responsible, in your opinion, for the hundreds of dead and wounded since the Cabinet's formation last April?

Answer: Innocent people die during each security exacerbation. The situation has been explosive for the past 10 years. I do not know if there are those who believe that the mere formation of the Cabinet in its present form is sufficient to extricate us from crisis and from this bloody conflict. In view of the magnitude of the past incidents, we need some time to make arrangements and adopt measures that can help us emerge from the current situation. It is illogical to believe that all issues can be settled in a few weeks. Therefore, we are conducting a serious and frank dialogue among ourselves [Cabinet members] aimed at reaching the aspired solutions to put the country on the right path. We affirm that the reforms contained in the policy statement constitute the common denominators in light of which we must act to achieve our aims.

Question: All ask why the various parties continue the fighting despite the fact that they are represented in the government? In other words, the people are now convinced that these parties do not want a solution. All the parties are represented in the government but they refuse to stop the fighting. Moreover, they are now issuing orders to open fire.

Answer: As I previously said, we need some time to unify our trends and language. On the other hand, we must realize that there are parties on the ground which do not want to end the present situation. Israel is one of the parties existing in the arena in various forms. It acts to occasionally exacerbate the situation. I do not believe that anyone is unaware of the statements made by Shamir, Arens, and others alleging that the Karami government is unable to establish security in the territory under its authority and asking how it could then establish security in the south? This shows that there are some whose intentions are not good. We believe that what is happening is not unconnected with all this.

Question: Who do you consider responsible for the recent massacre?

Answer: On the basis of available reports, no one can say who is definitely responsible for deteriorations in the security situation that occur now and then. In the event of the comprehensive exacerbation, we, in reality, must consider everyone responsible. If there were no opposing parties and if it were not for the shelling, which all practice, there would have been no violence of the type mentioned.

Question: What are your comments regarding reports indicating a flow of weapons into Lebanon through the various illegal ports along the Lebanese coast, and what do you say about the battles, which it is said, will be comprehensive?

Answer: It is natural to say that weapons are flowing from all sides to whoever wants to use them in the dirty plot against all of us. It is a basic fact that the illegal ports are the channels through which these weapons flow. We confess that we cannot watch the areas used for this purpose. However, we are waiting for the implementation of the measures we are preparing and for the rebuilding of the Army in order to be able to control the situation and put a final end to what is taking place in this regard.

Question: Some people anticipate a major new flareup. Would you like to comment on this?

Answer: This type of anticipation only reveals the ill will harbored by certain parties. Let us not waste our time with these rumors. A kind of security vacuum exists. Black Monday [11 Jun] is still fresh in our memories. However, we need not rush matters. Let us hope that these expectations prove wrong and senseless.

Question: Are you optimistic regarding the country's march toward tranquillity and stability? What kind of power are you planning to use in achieving this, following the failure of past experiments with the Arab Deterrent Force, the Syrian troops, UNIFIL, the Multinational Force, etc.?

Answer: We want all the powers with an interest in Lebanon to express their interests and protect them through security. Security must be established here so as to restore the true democracy that serves the interests of all of us — the interests that can only be fulfilled through independence and sovereignty. That is why we are calling for security and liberation — goals which must be attained through the cooperation of all parties in putting a stop to the fighting and restoring security throughout the country. If this takes place, the government's mission will be much easier. Furthermore, the Army should be restructured into a strong organization with a clear mission to defend its land and people. When all of this is accomplished, we can be certain that the march has commenced.

Question: On which forces will you depend to establish the sovereignty of the state?

Answer: On the Internal Security Forces aided by the Army and the people.

Question: What is the possibility of calling in the Syrian troops from Sawfar and Hammanah to Suq al-Gharb — as a first stage, and to Beirut as a second stage — and for following this with regular negotiations in which Syria and Israel will participate?

Answer: I have never heard of such a thing. Hence, I cannot answer a question that has uncertain aspects. I cannot tell if such opportunities exist.

Question: What are the chances the Syrian troops will enter Suq al-Gharb and Beirut?

Answer: There are no signs of such developments — developments I regard as undesirable and unwarranted. Hence, I would say we should depend on ourselves throughout the coming phases.

Question: How would you comment on Israel's claim that it has not received a request to close its office in Ad-Dubbiyah?

Answer: I have already said that such a request has been made. I have nothing more to add at present.

Question: Is it true that you have suggested holding indirect negotiations with Israel over its withdrawal from the south, and who will mediate this?

Answer: We welcome the mediation of any party prepared to play such a role.

Question: Have you proposed holding indirect negotiations over the security arrangement [in the south]?

Answer: Our proposals in this respect are clear. We are prepared to study the required security arrangements through an indirect [negotiating] procedure. We believe that a strong Lebanon capable of fulfilling its responsibilities represents the only viable answer to the needs of those who will benefit from Lebanon's security — it will help promote their own security.

Question: Which decrees will your government abrogate or amend?

Answer: The executive branch has overstepped the boundaries of its authority in some decrees. Some of these decrees may be unconstitutional — a matter which calls for their amendment. In other cases, the executive authority has gone too far. All of these decrees will be reviewed. The law will prevail and all that should be abrogated will be.

Question: What about the Army-related decrees? Is there anything that should be promptly abrogated, or have you still not decided?

Answer: Nothing has been decided thus far. It was only yesterday that we acquired the [necessary] extraordinary powers.

Question: In view of the controversy that has been raised about the Army by the various parties represented in the government, do you think there is any room for finding a solution in the near future?

Answer: I hope something will be achieved soon so we can take some steps toward consolidating security and stability and opening the public facilities, including the Beirut port and airport, the crossing points, the international roads, and the road to the south.

Karami Addresses Delegations in Tripoli

NC171224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1035 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Speech by Prime Minister Rashid Karami to visiting popular delegations at his residence in Tripoli on 17 June — recorded]

[Excerpts] If you are welcoming me as prime minister, I want to tell you that I assumed this position just to render services to you and to this noble and gracious people. With this government, we are seeking to extricate the country from the crisis that has been gripping it for 10 years. All those who work for this objective will have their reward here and in the afterlife, because this situation must not continue. I do not think there is any citizen who does not want to live in dignity and freedom under a democratic system — the consultative [shura] system we have accepted. All of us want to live in freedom and dignity.

As long as there is an enemy on our land, there will be no alternative for us but to struggle for the liberation of our land. Struggle begins with words, because words are an expression of feelings and the stand of each one of us. I do not think there is any free and honorable man that does not want dignity for his homeland and sovereignty for his nation. We say it frankly: We have not attacked anyone. Every time, we have been the ones attacked. Therefore, when we take a stand on the liberation of our land, this is our right and our duty. In order to liberate our land, we must be united. This is the slogan of our government — the government of national unity. The unity of our efforts and ranks, our love for each other, and cooperation for the good of us all and for the dignity and sovereignty of our country is the correct course that we must all follow, despite our differing opinions. Perhaps to some I am not what they want. But we must put all this aside under the present conditions and consider what could bring us together. Unity is the best way for us to liberate our country. Liberation and security go hand-in-hand. It has become evident to all that without security there will be no stability, work, happiness, and peace of mind. Life without peace and happiness has no meaning. We are therefore called upon, in the name of Almighty God and in the name of this good and gracious people, to work together as one man for the sake of our one homeland and one people.

Al-Jumayyil, Karami Meet, Discuss Khaddam Visit

NC161221 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] While Syrian Vice President Khaddam is expected to visit Beirut on 18 June, the Syrian newspaper *TISHRIN* warns that Syria will not condone security or political setbacks in Lebanon, and emphasized support for Prime Minister Karami's government.

This atmosphere, as well as the relative stability in the security situation that has prevailed since Khaddam's visit was announced, were discussed by President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Karami at noon today at the Presidential Palace. During the meeting, the final touches were put on the agenda of the talks to be held with the Syrian vice president.

The meeting lasted from 1215 to 1330, and afterward Prime Minister Karami declined to make any statement. He only said: The agenda of the talks with Khaddam is open. Prime Minister Karami did not give a specific date for Khaddam's arrival.

Syria's Khaddam Arrives, Meets Al-Jumayyil

NC180730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Ad-Dawwar at 1000 today, where he was received by Ambassador Farid Samahah, director of protocol and public relations at the presidential palace. Khaddam then took a presidential car to Bikfayya, where President Amin al-Jumayyil received him at the entrance to the palace. Al-Jumayyil and Khaddam immediately held a meeting in the presence of Karami, who arrived at Bikfayya a short time earlier.

U.S. Informed of Talks

NC171723 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English
1645 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Informed sources have indicated that Lebanon informed the United States of the agenda of the expected talks between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil since Washington has always played an essential role in the Lebanese crisis, even though the American initiative was now absent.

ASH-SHIRA' Claims USSR's Ustinov Visited Al-Biqa'

LD160926 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0813 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Beirut, 16 Jun (KUNA) — A Lebanese weekly magazine reports today that a high-ranking Soviet military official visited the Al-Biqa' valley area in east Lebanon last Sunday.

The magazine *ASH-SHIRA'* says "Lebanese military sources in Al-Biqa' leaked the news of the visit by Soviet Defense Minister General Dimitri Ustinov to the Syrian Forces in the Al-Biqa'." The paper adds that the visit of this high-ranking Soviet official took place amid reports about increased tension between Syrian and Israeli forces in the region. It is recalled a 2-hour clash took place a couple of days ago between Syrian and Israeli forces which heightened tension in the Al-Biqa'.

Reports from Al-Biqa' say Israel has continued to reinforce its troops in the area along the entire line of confrontation with the Syrian forces, particularly in the vicinity of Al-Mansurah, and that the Israeli forces have brought tanks, artillery, and rocket launchers to the area.

Birri Enters Hospital for Medical Tests

NC161601 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for south Lebanon and reconstruction affairs and minister of water and electrical resources and justice, has canceled his appointments. He expressed regret that he will not be able to receive anyone for several days because of an unexpected illness that caused him to enter the hospital to undergo the necessary tests.

Suffers From Ear Inflammation

NC171905 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Medical bulletin on Minister Birri's health issued 17 June]

[Text] His Excellency Nabih Birri was admitted to the hospital because of dizziness resulting from an inflammation of the inner ear. He needs to undergo tests and have complete rest for several days to complete the tests.

Claimed Avoiding Contacts

NC170520 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0445 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The Beirut newspaper *AL-LIWA'* today reports that Nabih Birri was seen on the Shtawrah-Damascus road at the same time his office issued a statement yesterday that said Birri is ill, that he must rest for a few days, and that he regrets he cannot receive visitors. This was explained as an attempt to evade the political talks being held in preparation for Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam's visit.

It is also seen as an attempt to escape from the urgent political contacts the Sunnites are holding with him concerning the situation in West Beirut following the meeting at the mufti's residence. The participants at that meeting had decided to withdraw heavy weapons from West Beirut and to end the chaos there that followed increased sectarian struggles in that area.

Islamic Meeting Postponed Until 20 June

NC152005 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1815 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] As a result of contacts between a number of the Islamic meeting members and the mufti of the republic, Hasan Khalid, the Islamic meeting scheduled to be held tomorrow has been postponed until Wednesday [20 June]. No details have been given regarding the postponement.

Birri, Junblatt Not To Attend Islamic Meeting

NC161907 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1845 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Sources close to the mufti's office say that Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt have informed the office that they will not participate in the Islamic grouping meeting, scheduled to be held next Wednesday. The two ministers, the sources add, said they will send delegate representatives and that they prefer that their representatives meet with Mufti Khalid only.

Pierre al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Chair Party Meetings

NC151438 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1405 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Communications and Health Minister Pierre al-Jumayyil today chaired the weekly meeting of the Phalangist Party Politburo, which was devoted to a review of the political and security conditions and the discussion of the general outline of the proposal from the party on the future of Lebanon which will be presented to Christian and Muslim circles. Minister al-Jumayyil outlined some of the basic principles of the Phalangist paper which included freedom, coexistence of religions, and culture. Al-Jumayyil reported to the Politburo on the conditions of the government and on the difficulties facing it at present.

Finance and Housing Minister Camille Sham'un chaired the weekly meeting of the Liberal Party Political Council. He later stated that warring factions were urged to remove all arms from cities. He expressed the hope that all weapons would be taken away from all factions and groups. The council discussed a number of internal party affairs designed to improve popular living conditions.

Skaf Chairs Internal Security Council Meeting

NC151507 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1405 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Acting Interior Minister Joseph Skaf chaired a meeting at 1100 today of the Internal Security Council. Present at the meeting were the governor of Beirut, Mitri Nammar; the governor of Mount Lebanon, Muhammad adh-Dhawq; the director general of the Interior Ministry, Samih as-Sulh; the acting director general of the Internal Security Forces, 'Uthman 'Uthman; and the Chief of Police of Beirut, 'Umar Makhzumi; and other military and judiciary figures. Discussions during the meeting centered on the general security conditions prevailing in all the Lebanese areas, in particular the capital and Mount Lebanon Governorate, as well as the role of the Internal Security Forces at this stage. At the end of the meeting, Minister Skaf noted that the political solution was a prelude for security, for economic stability, and for the reopening of the vital institutions in Lebanon.

Junblatt Prepared for War 'If Forced Into Conquests'

NC171655 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Minister Walid Junblatt has stated that he accepted his ministerial post in order to prevent fighting and to achieve the nationalist demands through the government. At a dinner to break the fast last night, Junblatt affirmed that he is prepared for war if he is forced into conquests [futuhat], particularly the opening of the road to iqlim [Al-Kharrub], the defeat of what he termed as the factional army in Suq al-Gharb, and the liberation of the south.

Al-Huss Discusses Government, Cairo Agreement

NC171702 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English
1645 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Minister Salim al-Huss said that the strength of the present government was now at stake. Whether one could call it strong or weak, he said, depended on whether or not it could establish security. He added that if the government could not overcome the crisis, it will be overcome by the crisis.

Minister Al-Huss said that the Cairo Agreement [between Lebanon and the Palestinians] has become invalid and beyond discussion and that nothing prevented its abrogation.

Shams ad-Din Returns to Beirut 17 June

NC171845 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, this afternoon returned to Beirut from Damascus following a tour that took him to India, Pakistan, and the Iranian Islamic Republic. He held discussions with senior officials of these states on south Lebanon and on the termination of the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory.

Sa'ib Salam Leaves for Saudi Arabia 15 June

NC151509 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1405 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam left Beirut at noon today heading for Saudi Arabia. During his visit, Salam will meet with King Fahd and the Saudi officials to discuss with them Lebanese and regional affairs. On his way back to Beirut, Salam will visit Syria in response to an invitation from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Shams ad-Din Also Departs

JN151246 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] It has been learned that Sa'ib Salam, former Lebanese prime minister, has left for Saudi Arabia and that Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, vice chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, has arrived in the Syrian capital and is expected to meet with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Lebanese Ba'th Party Official Meets Deputies

JN141559 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Text] Beirut — Comrade 'Asim Qansuh, regional secretary of Lebanon's Ba'th Party, reviewed with deputies Hasan ar-Rifa'i, Husayn al-Husayni, and Albert Mansur the situation and developments in the Lebanese arena in light of the government of national unity's tasks since it obtained the vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies. Talks also focused on various developments in Lebanon in general and in areas under Israeli occupation in particular, as well as on the arbitrary Israeli practices against Lebanese citizens. Comrade Qansuh also met a delegation from the command of the Arab Regiments [Al-Afwaj Al-'Arabiyyah]. He discussed with them the means of strengthening Lebanese national resistance and supporting its brave struggle against the Zionist occupation forces.

Mufti Forms Committee To Discuss Arms Withdrawal

NC161749 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The mufti of Lebanon, Shaykh Hasan Khalid, has formed a delegation of Sunnites to visit members of the Cabinet and to discuss with them the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the residential areas of West Beirut. The delegation has started its mission with visits to Ministers Salim al-Huss and 'Adil 'Usayran, respectively.

Disagreement Reported Between Birri, Amal Official

NC171740 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] According to sources in Dar al-Fatwa [Lebanon's mufti's office], Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt have rejected the idea of attending personally next Wednesday's Islamic meeting. The sources added that both ministers would be sending somebody to represent them at the meeting. This rejection came after Mufti Hasan Khalid had formed a Sunnite delegation to discuss with all ministers the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the residential areas of West Beirut. Following the refusal of Ministers Birri and Junblatt to participate in the enlarged Islamic meeting, the Sunnite leadership in West Beirut were exerting efforts to persuade several Islamic officials, including the two ministers, to participate in the meeting. According to the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, the Sunnite leadership were working on such a meeting so as to reach maximum entente in West Beirut after the 10 articles issued by the Islamic meeting proved ineffective, leaving the area the arena of internal conflict. Moreover, the anarchy has increased by the Junblattists and the Amal Movement in areas which were originally a Sunnite zone of influence. The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY added that in addition to the conflict openly affecting the security situation, there is now disagreement in the Political Bureau at the Amal Movement where there is tension behind the scenes between Mr Nabih Birri and the chief of the Political Bureau of the Amal Movement, Mr 'Akif Haydar.

Army Denies Syrian Military Presence in Beirut

JN161847 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The Lebanese Army today denied reports from Israel about the presence of a Syrian armored division in Beirut. The Lebanese military spokesman expressed his astonishment at such reports. It will be recalled that the Israeli IDF Radio announced that a Syrian armored division is in Beirut for the first time since the Israeli invasion 2 years ago. A Western military attache in the Lebanese capital also expressed his astonishment at such reports, and wondered how 300 armored vehicles and 3,000 soldiers could have entered Beirut without anyone noticing.

Syrian Forces in Al-Biqa' on Maximum Alert

NC151635 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Our correspondent in Al-Biqa' reports that the Syrian Command in western and central Al-Biqa' has raised the state of alert to third grade — the maximum grade, from today until 18 June. The Syrian Command ordered an average state of alert 4 days ago which we reported. Our correspondent adds that today the Syrians brought in, via the Al-Masna' road, a T-72 tank battalion and positioned it on the frontlines facing Israeli lines. They also brought in a large number of trucks. Information indicates that the Syrian Forces are regrouping the Palestinian fighters in the Ta'lbaya and Sa'd Nayil areas.

Declare Military Zone

NC161544 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Syrian troops have declared the Baydir al-'Adas area in Al-Biqa' a prohibited military zone.

Israelis Reinforce Troops in Western Al-Biqa'

NC151836 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Correspondents in Al-Biqa' report that tension has suddenly heightened over the past 24 hours following clashes yesterday between Syrian and Israeli forces. Correspondents affirm that the Israeli occupation forces have brought in fresh reinforcements to the area, including APC's and artillery units along the contact lines, particularly in western Al-Biqa'. The Israelis have built fortifications in the same sector.

Reserves Asked To Report for Duty by 30 June

NC161124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Statement issued by Army Command Guidance Directorate — date and place not given]

[Text] 1. Noncommissioned officers and reserves are reminded that the last day for reporting for duty is 30 June 1984. They must report to the committees in charge of receiving reserves at the Raymond Hayik barracks in Sarba or at the Beirut area command before this date.

2. Only those having received an exemption or deferment are excepted.

3. A reserve who does not join his center 48 hours after the deadline is considered as being absent without leave and will be punished under Article 107 of the Military Judiciary Law.

6th Brigade Deploys Forces Around Embassies

NC151446 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1405 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The High Command of the 6th Brigade in the Lebanese Army today issued a communique in which it stated that a unit of the 6th Brigade were deployed around most of the foreign embassies in West Beirut. This came in response to a call by the Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The embassies covered by this process are Holland, Venzuela, India, Federal Germany, Norway, Belgium, Canada, Austria, Greece, Mexico, France, Italy, and the residence of the ambassador of Holland.

Hezbollah Terrorists Head for Iraq, Gulf

NC171527 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpt] An Arab security report says that a group comprising 10 Hezbollah members has completed terrorist training at Ba'labakk's Janta camp and proceeded to Iraq and certain Gulf states to carry out acts against official establishments and important military centers. It has been learned that Shaykh Subhi at-Tufayli [not further identified] is holding contacts and exerting efforts to procure funds for Hezbollah, which is experiencing a financial crisis because of a reduction in aid from Tehran. Meanwhile, in Ba'labakk, 40 Syrian tanks that had besieged an Iranian position in Ra's al-'Ayn have withdrawn, leaving a token force in the area. Furthermore, the Syrians have banned armed men from the Ba'labakk area, and Syrian soldiers have deployed in the city for this purpose.

Lebanese Resistance Front Issues Statement

JN141612 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Text] The Lebanese National Resistance Front has stressed the need to unite the ranks of all Lebanese in the battle of liberation against Israeli occupation. In the bulletin called *AT-TAHRIR*, which was issued for the first time today, the front said it represents the tide that is opposed to all attempts of sectarian fragmentation in Lebanon. The front warned that its achievements against the Israeli enemy should not become a subject of bidding by outside forces. In this context, AFP pointed to statements Yasir 'Arafat made at the beginning of this month in which he de-emphasized the Lebanese national resistance men's role in confronting the Zionist invaders. The bulletin explained that the front carried out 51 operations during last month in southern Lebanon and western Al-Biqa', and that heavy losses estimated at 70 dead were inflicted on the invading forces.

Amal Movement Political Bureau Issues Statement

NC161225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The Amal Movement Political Bureau issued a statement today on the meeting it held yesterday under Engineer 'Akif Haydar, Bureau chairman, and during which it discussed the overall political situation and the reports arriving from the south. The bureau pointed out that the occupation authorities' resort to crime and assassination as a means of intimidation is an indication of the failure of the well-known carrot-and-stick policy which the Israeli enemy has adopted to cow and stifle the resistance.

The statement said: Following the assassination of its innocent son, martyr [first name indistinct] An-Nahhas, Bidyas has joined its sisters in heroism — Ma'rakah, Sidon, Jibshit, Tyre, and other towns and villages — which have become a nightmare for the enemy, giving him no chance to rest. The statement added: Israel will not benefit from the arrest of the imam of 'Arab Salim, brother Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim Shams ad-Din, or from the arrests of strugglers in Sidon, Ash-Shihabiyah, Ash-Sharqiyah, and Al-Burj ash-Shamali. Our people have decided to carry on the battle of liberation until the goal is achieved. Israel should leave without conditions. The statement also said: The movement records its regret because some parties have claimed responsibility for some of the operations carried out by the national resistance. This is because the battle is the battle of an entire people, and we reject that honor be confined to one group only. Israel is trying to attribute some of the heroic operations to some Palestinian factions in order to create excuses that help it justify its continuing arbitrary measures and barbaric attacks.

The statement called for extricating the Army from the internal struggle and for rehabilitating it in preparation for the liberation of the south, western Al-Biqa', and Rashayya. Concluding, the statement called on the citizens in West Beirut to help the 6th Army Brigade and the Internal Security Forces by showing them full support and respect. The statement expressed the hope that the voices concerned about Beirut that have recently increased and become more diversified, are truly honest and aware of the reality and danger spots. It also expressed the hope that they will adhere to Beirut's real interest and not use it as an excuse for cheap purposes that will ultimately harm everyone and serve the Israeli enemy and his agents in Lebanon.

CSSR Premier Strougal Arrives on 3-Day Visit

JN171607 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Damascus — At 1500 today, CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal arrived in Damascus heading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Syria at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm headed those who received Strougal at Damascus International Airport. General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense; Antoine Jubran, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and the CSSR ambassador in Damascus also received Strougal.

Dr al-Kasm and Strougal walked to the dais and the CSSR and Syrian national anthems were played. Dr Al-Kasm and Strougal reviewed the honor guard who saluted their excellencies. Strougal then shook hands with the deputy prime minister for services affairs, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the ministers, the governor of Damascus, and a number of socialist countries' ambassadors in Damascus. Strougal greeted the CSSR community, which was at the reception.

After the reception, Dr al-Kasm and Strougal left the airport in an official motorcade to the Ar-Rawdah Palace in Damascus.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent at the Ar-Rawdah Palace, Strougal said that his visit to Syria falls within the framework of strengthening friendship and cooperation between the CSSR and the Syrian Arab Republic. He expressed satisfaction with the fruitful cooperation and the good relations between both friendly countries in the various spheres, asserting that both countries' viewpoints on international political issues are identical. Strougal said that he is looking forward to holding talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm on the current international situation and relations in the economic and political spheres. He added: During our talks, we will draw up a new program for cooperation between both countries for the upcoming years — a program that will contribute to strengthening and expanding cooperation between Syria and the CSSR for their mutual interests.

Strougal is accompanied by an official delegation which comprises the minister of industry [as heard]. The deputy minister of foreign affairs, the deputy minister of foreign trade, and a number of CSSR advisers and officials.

Official Talks Begin

JN171858 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpt] The first round of talks began this evening between the Syrian side led by Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and the CSSR side led by CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal. After exchanging welcome speeches, they discussed in detail all the joint projects between Syria and the CSSR in the fields of industry, electricity, oil, health, trade exchange, and scientific and technical cooperation. The two sides also evaluated the positive results of the agreements that have been signed between the two friendly countries — agreements that provide large social and economic gains through the cooperation that is being developed and promoted between them. Two joint committees were formed to discuss and formulate all the topics on which the economic, trade, scientific, and technical talks revolve.

Further on Official Talks

JN172049 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jun (SANA) — At 1745 today, CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal called on Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and held a closed session with him. Later, the first round of talks was held between the Syrian side led by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, and CSSR side led by CSSR Premier Lubomir Strougal. The talks were attended on the Syrian side by 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Kamal Sharaf, minister of state for planning affairs; Mahmud Qaddur, minister of industry; Antoine Jubran, minister of state for Cabinet affairs; and the assistants of the ministers of foreign affairs, oil and mineral wealth, economy, planning affairs, electricity, and health.

On the CSSR side, the talks were attended by Pavol Bahyl, federal minister of general engineering; Jindrich Rehorek, first deputy minister of foreign affairs; Ladislav Vodrazka, first deputy minister of foreign trade; the CSSR ambassador in Damascus; and a number of CSSR advisers and officials.

At the beginning of the session, Dr al-Kasm welcomed Strougal and the members of the CSSR delegation. He pointed to the important developments in the region after the Prague meeting in 1982. He said that the U.S. Administration, which urges Israel to adopt a continuous hostile policy, attempted to subjugate Syria and the Arab nation to its direct objectives which are aimed at imposing hegemony and control. Dr al-Kasm also explained Syria's achievements under President Hafiz al-Asad in resisting U.S. policy and the Israeli aggression — a resistance that was able to foil the fierce onslaught and strengthen the pillars of Arab steadfastness in the region.

Dr al-Kasm asserted the strong Syrian-CSSR cooperation which was based on the meetings between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Gustav Husak in Prague and Damascus. He also asserted that the relations between both friendly countries are witnessing — in accordances with these bases — a large-scale development in the political and economic spheres, and that Strougal's current visit to Syria will reinforce these relations and complete the positive results of the Prague talks in 1982. Consequently, the existing friendship between both countries, peoples, parties, and governments will be based on firm ground which is developing toward higher standards.

Strougal thanked Dr al-Kasm for the hospitality he and the CSSR delegation have been accorded on their visit to Damascus. He explained that the international situation has become very complicated and tense because of the aggressive U.S. policy that supports Zionism and all racist elements and which tries to subjugate the people to its will. Strougal said that the situation in Syria and the CSSR is similar because both militant countries are exposed to U.S. imperialist threats — a matter that requires the cooperation and solidarity of the socialist and progressive countries to confront the dangers of imperialism, Zionism, and their hostile plans. He added: The CSSR praises Syria's struggle and stands under President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that Syrian-CSSR relations have become strategic in the political, economic, and trade spheres, and that they will continuously develop in all spheres.

During the session, both sides discussed in detail all joint projects between Syria and the CSSR in the spheres of industry, electricity, oil, health, trade exchange, and scientific and technical cooperation. The two sides also evaluated the positive results of the agreement that have been signed between the two friendly countries — agreements that provide large social and economic gains through the cooperation that is being developed and promoted between them. Two joint committees were formed to discuss and formulate all the topics on which the economic, trade, scientific, and technical talks revolve. Both committees will hold their meetings to accomplish their works.

Saudi Mediator Al-Hariri, Junblatt Arrive in Damascus

JN161226 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri arrived in Damascus this morning and met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam immediately after his arrival. Walid Junblatt also arrived in the Syrian capital. He said that he would later meet with Khaddam and Al-Hariri.

Al-Hariri Meets With Khaddam

JN162035 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
2000 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] It has been learned from an informed source in Damascus that Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met this evening with Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri who arrived in the Syrian capital today. They discussed the situation in Lebanon on the eve of Khaddam's visit to Beirut. Earlier today, the Saudi mediator met with Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt.

Az-Zu'bi Confers With Soviet Charge d'Affaires

JN161221 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Damascus — People's Assembly speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi today received (Victor Bosvalyok), Soviet charge d'affaires in Damascus, who conveyed to Az-Zu'bi a message from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on developing the existing parliamentary relations between both countries. During the meeting, they discussed Soviet-Syrian relations, particularly at the parliamentary level, and the need to continuously strengthen and develop these relations. (Bosvalyok) affirmed the USSR's principled stand which supports Syria's militatant march toward achieving its objectives. Mahmud az-Zu'bi asserted the need to develop the relations between both friendly countries for their common interests in resisting imperialism and Zionism and in foiling their plans. The People's Assembly speaker confirmed that Syria, under struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, will remain the solid bastion struggling against the plans prepared by the United States, Israel, and their agents, and that Syria highly praises the stand of its friends in the socialist bloc, foremost being the USSR, which supports issues of truth and peace in the world.

Foreign Minister Receives Cypriot Official

JN171124 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1015 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' at 1100 this morning in Damascus received Andreas Mavrommatis, Cypriot assistant foreign minister who is currently visiting Syria. The meeting was also attended by Sulayman Haddad, director of the West Europe Department in the Foreign Ministry. Talks centered on bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means to develop these relations. The foreign minister stressed Syria's principled and firm support for the just Cypriot cause.

Al-Asad Sends Letter to UN Apartheid Committee

JN151508 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a letter to the chairman of the UN Committee Against Apartheid on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with the people of South Africa. In his letter, the president announced Syria's support for the South African people's confrontation of racism, as represented by the regime of racial segregation in South Africa and by the Zionist regime in Israel. The letter stresses that the world's anti-apartheid advocates are required now more than ever before to intensify their combat of racism, and to have a unified stand by adopting the necessary measures to end the racist practices being perpetrated by the two regimes in Israel and South Africa.

Muhammad Haydar Confers With DPRK Ambassador

JN161322 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1305 GMT
16 Jun 84

[Text] Damascus, 1000 GMT (SANA) — Comrade Muhammad Haydar, Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command member and head of the Party's foreign affairs office, received here today Yi Hong-yop, DPRK ambassador. During the meeting, the talks revolved around relations between the Ba'th Party and the Korean Workers Party, coordination of the coooperation agreement between the two parties, and the exchange of delegations in order to promote ties of friendship and cooperation.

Israeli, Syrian Losses in 14 June Clash Reported

JN171735 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1710 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Excerpt] Unofficial sources in the Syrian capital today confirmed to our radio the Israeli military spokesman's statement that the Syrian and Israeli forces clashed for 2 hours across the Al-Biqa' line between the two armies on Thursday. Tanks took part in this clash. It is noteworthy that Damascus has not issued any official statement on this incident. However, I have learned that during this 2-hour clash, the Syrian Forces destroyed 3 Israeli tanks and inflicted on the Israelis 15 casualties, including 7 dead. The official sources declined to comment on this report. It was also learned that during this incident, the Syrians sustained four casualties, including one officer.

Radio Says Israeli Troops on Alert in Al-Biqa'

JN180653 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
0315 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Zionist entity — In its weekly meeting yesterday, the Zionist government reviewed a number of military reports presented by Zionist war Minister Moshe Arens, head of military intelligence, and by the command of Zionist forces in southern Lebanon.

Reports leaked from the Zionist government's meeting say that discussion dealt with preserving the state of full alert and mobilization of the Zionist forces in southern Lebanon. The Security Committee, which includes Israeli ministers, in a separate meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir, discussed what it called Syrian preparations and the possibilities of Syrian military action.

Zionist military correspondents say that Israeli units along the confrontation lines have been put on a full state of mobilization and alert. Reports from Beirut say that the Zionist enemy intends to escalate the tension in Al-Biqa' on a daily basis, and that the occupation forces' provocations fall within the context of creating the suitable conditions for a large-scale war in the region.

Shamir on Recent Developments in Al-Biqa'

TA171516 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1455 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz "a short time ago," place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Horowitz] Reports have been rife in the media about Syrian Army movements toward the Al-Biqa'; these follow the exchange of fire last week. Are we faced with a new situation in the Al-Biqa'?

[Shamir] As far as we know at the moment, we should not expect any worrisome or dangerous developments. We are not witnessing a real change in the field. We are alert, however, and if a change does occur, we will proceed accordingly.

[Horowitz] Has Israel sent some kind of political message or signal to the Syrians?

[Shamir] I think that Israel's position is clear to the Syrians. They are aware of our positions and thoughts, not only as far as confrontations are concerned. If they attempt to attack or provoke Israel they will fail. If they ever reach the sensible conclusion that an arrangement should be found with Israel, and also with regard to Lebanon, they should know that Israel will be a serious and reliable partner.

[Horowitz] The chief of staff stated a few days ago that the future of our presence in Lebanon is a political question. That being the case, what is the government doing to promote a solution of this problem?

[Shamir] As I have said, the government is continuously working to achieve a solution ensuring the Galilee's security which would relieve us of the need to maintain a constant IDF presence in Lebanon.

Shamir Against Freezing Settlement Budget

TA180806 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Jun 84 p 1

[Arye Kinarti report]

[Text] "If the Alignment calls for ending settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, we will not form a national unity government with it," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated in an interview with *NEQUDA*, Gush Emunim's mouthpiece, scheduled to appear this week. Shamir noted that the differences of opinion with the Alignment over the settlement drive had at one time precluded the establishment of a national unity government.

Replying to the settlers' complaints about a freeze on allocations to the settlements, Shamir disclosed that he specifically agreed with Finance Minister Kohen-Orgad that the allocations approved for the settlements would not be frozen.

As for the affair of the Jewish terrorist organization detainees, Shamir stated in the interview: "Those who operate in the underground now, 36 years after the establishment of the state, are operating against Jewish statehood. There is no justification whatsoever for taking the law into one's hands. There is a limit that cannot be crossed, and that is the limit of state authority. Those who cross this limit undermine the existence of their own country."

Arens Briefs Cabinet on IDF-Syrian Clash

TA171052 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] At today's weekly Cabinet session, Defense Minister Moshe Arens briefed the Cabinet on Thursday's [14 June] incident between the IDF and the Syrians in the eastern sector of Lebanon. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reviewed the UN secretary general's visit to Israel and the region. Other issues were discussed by the Cabinet in the framework of the Ministerial Committee on Security Affairs.

In reply to a question by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel regarding the Swiss Foreign Ministry's announcement of a meeting in Paris between representatives of Israel and Iran, Cabinet Secretary Mikha'el Nir said that Israel knew nothing of this. The report, he said, apparently referred to a meeting held approximately 3 years ago, and the entire affair was no longer under examination.

Arens on Possibility of War With Syria

TA161109 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The defense minister has commented that there is a possibility that the internal tension in the Syrian rule will break out in the form of a war against Israel. However, he stressed that the Syrian Army was not capable of standing up to a war against the IDF at present, and we must make this clear to Damascus. Professor Arens made these remarks in an interview program this morning in the Jerusalem Theater. He also added that the southern army of Lebanon had become a significant factor lessening the security burden laid upon the IDF. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Hemi Bar-Yosef.

Arens on Cooperation With U.K. on Weapons

TA170713 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Jun 84 p 1

[Hayim Corney report]

[Excerpt] Confirming reports from London, the Defence Ministry spokesman said last night that Minister Moshe Arens has proposed to his British counterpart Israeli-British cooperation in the development of future weapons systems.

Arens pointed out that Israel has the technology to offer Britain in return for British financing for the development of weapons.

The spokesman emphasised that Israel has so far received no reply from the British and that the matter is still open.

Britain, in fact, is unlikely to agree at present to Israel's suggestions, put by Arens to his opposite number Michael Heseltine, when they met in London on June 4.

Five IDF Soldiers Wounded in South Lebanon

TA161455 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1450 GMT 16 Jun 84

["IDF Spokesman's Announcement No 1" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 16 Jun ITIM — Five IDF soldiers sustained light injuries at around 1430 today about 1.5-km south of the Az-Zahrani River on the coastal road in Lebanon's western sector.

A Lebanese civilian car exploded while driving close to three IDF armored personnel carriers. The car's driver was killed and the wounded were evacuated to the hospital. IDF forces have begun searching the area.

'Suicide Mission' Possible Motive

TA171016 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 17 Jun 84 pp 1, 11

[Yosef Walter, Menahem Rahat, and Yosef Tzuri'el report]

[Excerpts] It was a Shi'ite terrorist on a suicide mission who blew up a booby-trapped car near an IDF armored personnel carrier convoy south of the Az-Zahrani River. This is one of the assumptions which prevailed yesterday during an investigation of the incident conducted by the IDF and the security forces. Five soldiers were slightly wounded in this incident. The wounded were evacuated to the Haifa Rambam Hospital where some of them are suffering from minor burns.

The Mercedes driver was killed on the spot. Because of the force of the explosion, parts of his body were scattered over an area of 200 meters and his identity could not be verified. Two unexploded mortar bombs were also found near the remains of the car. From a preliminary investigation it appears that the car carried a large quantity of explosive material. It is not clear whether this really was a suicide mission — although this possibility appears to be the most reasonable — or whether the car's driver was transporting explosive material which, due to a mishap, caused the explosion.

Additional IDF Fortifications in Lebanon Reported

TA151355 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Jun 84 p 1

[Military correspondent Eytan Haber report]

[Text] Israel has recently been investing tens of millions of dollars in additional fortifications for IDF soldiers in Lebanon.

The decision to add fortifications, particularly in the eastern sector, was made after it became apparent that the government is in no rush to decide on a withdrawal from the present lines or on a total withdrawal from Lebanon.

Work on enhancing the defensibility and overhauling the positions has already begun; roads are being repaired and new posts are being set up. It is almost certain that IDF soldiers will remain in Lebanon next winter and this, among other things, is taken into consideration. Preparations for next winter are expected soon.

Military Sources Deny Reinforcements in Al-Biqa'

TA161211 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1200 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Israeli military sources have denied reports alleging that Israel and Syria are massing troops in Al-Biqa'. Radio Monte Carlo this morning reported that Syria and Israel have been reinforcing their troops in the Al-Biqa' area. The radio correspondent noted that these reinforcements came in the wake of the exchange of fire which occurred in the area on Thursday. As noted, Israeli military sources have denied these reports.

Yitzhaq Rabin Comments on Foreign Policy

Syrian, Israeli Intentions

TA161114 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin does not think that either Syria or Israel intends to wage war. He does not regard the exchange of fire that occurred on Thursday as a deterioration in the security situation, but he did say that Israel should be prepared for the possibility that his assumption is not proven true. Yitzhaq Rabin said this yesterday in Haifa.

IDF Withdrawal From Lebanon

TA170745 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 17 Jun 84 p 2

[Gabi Zohar report]

[Text] MK Yitzhaq Rabin, member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee who has been designated as defense minister should the Alignment come to power, attacked the outcome of the war against Lebanon in a speech at the Haifa Engineers' Club over the weekend, and warned against the gravest danger threatening Israel's security, which is that extremist Shi'ites are taking part in hostile actions in Israeli territory.

According to MK Rabin, 70 percent of the Lebanese inhabitants who are engaged in hostile actions against the IDF in Lebanon are Khomeyni Shi'ites, a factor that did not affect Israel prior to its invasion of Lebanon. If the Lebanese war served to direct Khomeyni Shi'ite terrorism at civilian targets in Israeli territory, this development would be more serious than Palestinian terrorism.

The longer we stay in Lebanon, the greater the danger of an increase in the motivation of Shi'ite terrorists to attack targets within Israel. Rabin called certain targets of the Peace for

Galilee campaign — the evacuation of Lebanon by the terrorists and the establishment of a government in Beirut — castles in Spain. In his opinion, the Karami government is, in its attitude toward Israel, one of the most hostile governments to have existed in Lebanon in recent years.

As for the terrorists, approximately 20,000 PLO members, organized in brigades in the Al-Biqa', have remained in Lebanon, in addition to some 2,000 terrorists who are now in Beirut. Yitzhaq Rabin said that in contrast to the Likud's alternative of a permanent deployment in Lebanon, the Alignment is proposing a two-stage solution: an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon in 6 to 9 months, while UNIFIL, with the aid of the southern army of Lebanon, will replace Israel; and, in the second stage, in the framework of ensuring the essential security interests of Israel and Lebanon, the IDF will enter Lebanon whenever the need arises.

He strongly criticized the Likud which, instead of investing funds in the infrastructure and settlements near this confrontation line, is investing money in the heart of Samaria. MK Rabin also strongly criticized Israel's economic leadership and said that the Lebanese war has cost $2.25 billion to date, and maintaining IDF in Lebanon would cost $250 million annually.

DPA: Peres Calls for Withdrawal From Lebanon

LD161113 Hamburg DPA in German 1052 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Hamburg, 16 Jun (DPA) — Chairman of the Israeli Labor Party Shim'on Peres has called for a withdrawal of the Israeli troops from Lebanon. The opposition leader is seen as the most likely candidate for the post of prime minister after the elections in Israel on 23 July. In an interview with *BILD AM SONNTAG*, which was supplied to DPA in advance, Peres said: "We will have to change the mode of defense in Lebanon — instead of a rigid defense north of the Israeli border, a flexible, mobile defense from behind the Israeli border, with an early warning system in the southern part of Lebanon."

However, if this system should show "that the PLO terrorists are once again creating a state within a state, the Israeli army will once again cross over the border and prevent it," the former defense minister said. But the base of operations would be Israel. "There can be a withdrawal of troops within a few months."

On the issue of possible supplies of German weapons to Arab states, Peres said: "If the FRG wants to interfere in the conflict in the Middle East, then its alliance with Israel must be stronger than that with the Arabs."

Mubarak Thanks Peres for Condolence Message

TA151352 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1430 GMT 15 Jun 84

["Announcement by the Labor Party's spokesman" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 15 Jun (ITIM) — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak today sent a telegram to Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres thanking him for his condolences on the death of the Egyptian prime minister. Following is the text of the telegram:

From Mr Muhammad Husni Mubarak, President of the Egyptian Arab Republic:

Mr Shim'on Peres,

Thank you for your sincere condolences on the death of Prime Minister Dr Ahmad Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din which put an end to a lifetime of service to his country, his people, and his Arab nation.

My faithful greetings,

Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Weizman Position on Coalition, Territories

TA170800 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 17 Jun 84 p 2

[Text] "There is no chance that any one bloc will receive a majority in the election, and without us no government will be formed. However, any government of which we are a part must be a stable government, capable of implementing its decisions," 'Ezer Weizman said yesterday at the Tel Aviv Engineers' Club.

Weizman said there is a lack of trust in the leadership, and called upon the voters to place their trust in his party, which will struggle to implement its platform, and not in people who are publishing slogans but not applying them.

Weizman rapped the Alignment's territorial compromise, asking to whom Gaza will be returned if Egypt does not want it. He also opposes a Palestinian state.

In response to a question, he said that the establishment of settlements is now a political-Zionist issue, It is our right, but does not contribute to our security.

Weizman Movement Broadcasts Ordered Stopped

TA151122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpt] The chairman of the Central Elections Committee, Judge Gavri'el Bach, has ordered 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad Party to stop broadcasting election ads from the Voice of Peace radio station. This report from Dan Eisenberg:

[Begin recording] Supreme Court Justice Gavri'el Bach gave two reasons for his decision. The first, a paragraph in the election propaganda law which forbids election propagandeering from ships or airplanes. The second consideration was the provision in the same law which determines how advertising time will be allocated among the parties in order to guarantee fair distribution. Justice Bach himself determined the allocation of the air time on radio, and any extra time by any party on any station would violate that arrangement.

Perez de Cuellar-'Arafat Meeting Scored

TA170704 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
17 Jun 84 p 1

[Yosi Melman report]

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem have expressed their disappointment and anger over the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's decision to meet with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. According to the sources, the UN secretary general did not mention this possibility during his visit to Jerusalem last week. The announcement of the meeting, which is to take place in Geneva, was released by the United Nations yesterday.

KAKH Movement Disqualified From Campaign

TA171905 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT
17 Jun 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 17 Jun (ITIM) — The Central Election Committee has decided to disqualify Rabbi Kahana's KAKH list and not permit it to run for the Knesset. This was reported this evening on IDF radio. The debate over the issue lasted some 4 and 1/2 hours. The 18 members of the committee voted for the motion, including Chairman Justice G. Bach. Ten committee members voted against the motion. The Likud allowed its members to vote without regard to party line, and indeed some Likud members abstained. Rabbi Me'ir Kahana said he would appeal this decision to the Supreme Court.

Sentence Handed Down to KAKH Terrorist

TA170953 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
17 Jun 84 p 7

[Tzadoq Yehezke'eli report]

[Excerpt] This weekend Hazan Levi, a member of the hit squad of the KAKH movement, was sentenced to a 4-year prison term, of which 21 months will be served in prison and the rest as a suspended sentence. This is a result of a "deal" between the defendent and the prosecution.

After 10 months, Hazan Levi, 24 — an immigrant from the United States — may be released from prison if one-third of his term is deducted for good behavior. He was convicted of setting fire to three cars belonging to East Jerusalem Arabs; throwing a Molotov cocktail at a house in Shu'fat, in which an Arab family was asleep at the time; and in participating in the preparation of an ambush of a bus carrying Arab workers near Ramallah. As a result of this last incident, six passengers were wounded.

Although the prosecution has a state witness who has actively participated in all six attacks perpetrated by the squad — and he was ready to testify and expose his friends' actions — a "deal" has been negotiated with three of the four main defendants, among whom is Yehuda Richter, number two on KAKH's Knesset list.

For the time being the prosecution has come to a deal with Hazan Levi. In exchange for confessing to all the charges against him, the prosecution has agreed to drop the charge of attempted murder from the indictment. Therefore the remaining charges are "conspiring to commit a crime" and arson, for which the maximum combined sentence is a 22-year term in prison.

The prosecutor asked the three judges — Chief Justice Eliyahu No'am, Tzvi Tal, and Me'ir Madin — to be severe in sentencing the defendant. "Any tendency to accept ideological motives for violent actions will be interpreted by the defendant as a tendency to understand him — and that is the worst thing for him," the prosecutor, attorney Miki Shaqed, claimed. When he tried to link the actions of the defendant to the ideology of the KAKH movement, however, his claims were overruled by the judges: "If you want to link criminal actions with the KAKH movement, you have to prove it," Judge Tal rebuked him.

Police Investigate Attempt To Assassinate Frayj

TA170700 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Jun 84 p 1

[Text] (ITIM) — The Judaea District police are investigating an attempt to assassinate Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj.

A short time ago, the police arrested a man suspected of having stolen an 'Uzi submachine gun, on the orders of Bethlehem District Village League leader Bishara Qimsiyah, with which he was to have staged an assassination at Qimsiyah and placed the blame on the PLO. The goal, according to the police, was to get the authorities to finance the guarding of Qimsiyah. The detainee also admitted to having planted a bomb at Frayj's house and having set fire to cars belonging to Qimsiyah's opponents. He said he had also been ordered to murder a local policemen belonging to the Hebron police force. The suspect escaped from his detention cell in the Az-Zahiriyah police station last week, but gave himself up after a search for him had begun.

Qiryat Arba' residents learned of the affair and strongly reacted, asking why the head of the Village Leagues has not yet been arrested and interrogated, and suggesting that the reason is that he is not a Jew — an obvious reference to Rabbis Levinger and Waldman.

MFO Finds Israeli Violation of Treaty in Sinai

TA180805 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Jun 84 p 1

[Military correspondent Mikha'el Gerti report]

[Text] A check conducted last Wednesday in the Sinai by the MFO revealed five tanks in dug-outs in Israeli territory near the Egyptian border. This represents an Israeli violation of the military appendix to the peace treaty with Egypt. Israel promised to remove the tanks that same day.

The tanks were found near the Israeli-Egyptian international border. It appears that all five tanks were junk. A military source described three of them as "museum exhibits."

A check conducted by the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent revealed that the five tanks — which are inoperative — were stationed there to serve as targets during maneuvers. During the MFO's check, IDF officers on the scene tried to convince the control team that these were not real tanks, and pointed out the condition of the tanks, but the MFO team refused to let the tanks stay.

Replying to a question by the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent, a senior source said this week that the incident does not represent a violation of the treaty because the MFO has not yet reported it. The same source noted, however, that the issue was still being checked by the IDF.

No Concessions on Site of Tabah Talks

TA170718 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Jun 84 p 2

[Text] Israel is not prepared for any concession regarding the site of the talks with Egypt concerning the Tabah dispute. Late last week the Foreign Ministry spokesman denied that Israel had expressed willingness to concede the clause in the agreement with Egypt which states that the talks on this issue will be held in the capitals of both countries. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that in unofficial appeals by Washington elements, a proposal was raised that Israel concede the clause determining that the Tabah talks be held in Cairo and Jerusalem. Political sources in Jerusalem told the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that there was no justification for such a concession. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent comments that if nothing comes of the negotiations, other means of communication or arbitration should be tried. Ambassador Rosenne held talks with Egyptian and U.S. elements last week, and it has been learned that Washington is considering U.S. arbitration on the matter of the Tabah dispute.

Zohar Blumenkrantz, the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent on tourism affairs, reports that Israel and Egypt have recently held new contacts in an attempt to break the freeze in tourist movement between the two countries, and there are indications of a positive movement in the Egyptian position on this issue. This was disclosed yesterday by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir in a special talk last night with the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent in Elat, where the minister was attending the opening of the Neptune Hotel's new wing.

Meeting on Aqaba Health Issue Held With Jordan

TA170711 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
17 Jun 84 p 1

[Eytan Rabin report]

[Text] Last Wednesday [13 June] a meeting was held between Israeli officials and physicians and Jordanian officials. It was made clear that the Jordanians intend to turn the Aqaba area into an industrial zone and eliminate the tourism industry.

The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent has learned that Elat Mayor Rafi Hochman did not attend the meeting, although it had been planned that he would. Governmental sources have reported that the meeting lasted for about 2 hours and the physicians from Israel explained to the Jordanians the damage that could be caused as a result of the cesspools.

500 Detainees Being Held in Ansar Camp

TA151405 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
15 Jun 84 p 9

[Roni Daniyel and Avi Ya'ara report]

[Excerpt] The publicity given to the escape attempt by 10 Ansar camp detainees, and the death of one of them during the pursuit about a month ago confirms indirectly what is known from foreign sources: The Ansar camp is being filled again with detainees, those suspected of collaborating, attempting attacks against IDF soldiers and southern army of Lebanon soldiers, and organizing hostile organizations.

The number of detainees totals about 500 today.

The conspicuous silence of IDF authorities about anything to do with the camp probably results from the lesson learned during the "golden" period of the camp when 8,000 people were detained there.

League of Socialists Ends Conference in Somalia

EA180229 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1400 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The sixth session of the League of African Socialist Parties ended its 3-day conference at the people's National Assembly today with a call to the Abyssinian regime to withdraw its troops from SDR territory that was captured in 1982. The 3-day session, which was held at the People's National Assembly, approved resolutions affecting the overall political situation and economic advancement on the African continent.

On the thorny issue of the horn of Africa and the conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia, the conference accepted the chairman's proposals recommending the setting up of a committee whose duties would be to find solutions to the conflict. The session called on the committee to continue to explore the possibilities of finding a just and lasting peace. On the Eritrean issue the session was asked to look into a just solution based on UN principles and on those of the OAU. The chairman of the League of African Socialist Parties, Mr Leopold Sedar Senghor, stressed the need for delegates to the conference to continue their efforts to find a solution to the issue. On Mayotte the conference delegates, having listened to the speech of the island's delegate, unanimously agreed to the chairman's decision that he personally put the issue of the feelings of the people regarding the Mayotte issue before the French president. On the Middle East, the League of the African Socialist Parties has called on Israel to evacuate immediately Arab lands it occupied in 1967. The delegates expressed total support for the people of Palestine and a Palestinian homeland, and at the same time deplored the presence of Israeli occupation forces in Lebanon. On the South African issue, the session condemned without any reservations the policy of apartheid and the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Boer regime. The session expressed support for the ANC of Azania and SWAPO of Namibia. The session regretted the political and economic situation prevailing in Africa and the huge debts owed to international organizations by Africa and the Third World. The session expressed appreciation for the work being done by the league which has made great efforts to enhance cooperation in Africa and the world and to consolidate its relations with other socialist parties that can play a significant role in easing the economic and social problems prevalent in Africa. The next session of the league will be held in Sudan in 1985. The SDR president was hailed by the league for the role he played in developing his country and people.

Senghor Urges Talks on Horn Conflict

EA180230 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali
1700 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The chairman of the League of African Socialist Parties, who is also the chairman of the committee named to find a solution to the horn of Africa conflict, His Excellency Leopold Senghor, has urged the parties involved in the horn conflict to hold direct talks in order to find a solution to the problem. At a press conference held at the SRSP's central headquarters in Mogadishu and attended by reporters from the Somali media as well as those from AFP, AP and a Japanese news agency, His his mediation committee have so far brought little progress, and the Abyssinian regime has not shown much cooperation. On the resolutions passed at the just-ended league session, the chairman said these resolutions have far-reaching political, economic, and [word indistinct] significance for Africa. Asked about Libya's intervention in Chadian affairs, His Excellency Senghor said the league was against the interference in Chad's internal affairs and that it recognized the (?lawful) government in Chad today. On ways to discourage military interference in Africa by the superpowers, His Excellency Senghor said the only way to overcome this was to think and form solidarity in an African way [sentence as heard].

OAU Heads of State To Decide on Olympics Participation

AB180745 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
0700 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Excerpt] The meeting of the Executive Committee Bureau of the Supreme Council for Sports in Africa [CSSA] ended yesterday afternoon in Ouagadougou. At a press conference given yesterday evening in his office, the CSSA chairman, Captain Henri Zongo, the minister of state enterprises in charge of the Department of Youth and Sports, briefed the press on the meeting. The CSSA chairman revealed that the UN international convention against apartheid in sports was adopted with some reservation. Concerning Africa's participation in the Los Angeles games, Captain Henri Zongo said that the final decision will be made by the heads of state of member states of the OAU. Speaking on the organization of the first week of fair play in Africa, he said the question will be referred to a CSSA ad hoc committee for examination and that prior to this a national fair play commission will be set up in each state.

OAU Protests RSA Attending Belgian Symposium

EA141446 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries
1530 GMT 13 Jun 84

[Text] The OAU today called upon the government of the Kingdom of Belgium to reconsider the invitation extended to South Africa to participate in the 20th international symposium on applied military psychology. In a press release issued in connection with the symposium, scheduled to take place in Belgium from 25th to 29th June the OAU called upon the government of the Kingdom of Belgium not to add insult to injury by permitting the racist South African representative with a long record of terrorism to participate in the symposium. The OAU further noted in the press release that South Africa has always wanted to join NATO.

ALGERIA

Moroccan Army Unit Crosses Border, Suffers Casualties

LD151822 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Jun 84

["Text" of statement issued by Ministry of National Defense]

[Text] At about 0630 on 15 June 1984, a motorized unit of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces numbering about 60 crossed the Algerian border in the direction of Anageuer, Bechar Province.

Surveillance units of the National People's Army intercepted this unit, which after a brief engagement suffered the following: 2 dead, 2 wounded, 31 prisoners including 11 NCO's. The remainder of the infiltrating elements withdrew toward Moroccan territory.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed by Vienna Television

AU152130 Vienna Television Service in German 1943 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Feature on Libyan Chief of State Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, including "exclusive" interview given by Al-Qadhdhafi to Werner Fitzthum last Tuesday, 12 June, in his tent near a military barracks in Tripoli; interview conducted in English with superimposed German translation — passages in boldface are in the original English]

[Excerpts] [Fitzthum] Some 24 hours after his inflammatory 3-hour speech on the anniversary of the expulsion of the United States from Libya, begun at midnight, 11 June 1984, the 42-year-old Al-Qadhdhafi presents himself as a charming and jovial person. His way of life is supposedly ascetic, nay puritanical. Al-Qadhdhafi's office is in a tent without any particular furnishing, symbolizing his descent from Berbers. There is a desk, television set, books, and a globe. He was questioned: Why are there such attacks against the United States, and what is the Libyan-American relationship?

[Qadhdhafi] **The United States is under the influence of Zionism. Zionism is trying to destroy the American interests in the world and this Zionist policy will lead** the United States into catastrophe because the American policy under the Reagan administration leads directly into a confrontation with the Soviet Union in the Middle East. **We have declared many times that we want to establish good relations with the United States,** but it has refused this to date. The United States wants to bring Libya under its influence, wants to enslave us, but we want to be free. We refuse to be under the influence of the United States or of any other country. Properly speaking, America has no friends. It has either enemies or enslaves the countries. And because we reject slavery we automatically become an enemy in American eyes. And Reagan has too little experience, he is not qualified enough, to **be the President of a superpower like America. His policy is childish.**

[Fitzthum] Al-Qadhdhafi's longing glances for more power and influence in Northern Africa will most likely keep that region in suspense also in the future. But the Chad crisis will no longer disturb his relations with France.

[Qadhdhafi] **The relations between these two countries aregood.** There are natural interests between Libya and France. **Everything between those two countries is going okay. But there is the Chadian problem.**

I declared my good intentions to France. We have declared our readiness to solve this problem of Chad. From our side I said we are ready to withdraw any Libyan existence in Chad, such as experts. But in this case France also must withdraw its troops immediately and completely **from Chad and I am awaiting the reply from our friend Mitterrand**.

[Fitzthum] The revolutionary leader in Tripoli has his own theory about the shots fired on the Thames River.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **The British Government is responsible, responsible for the killing of that policewoman. It is also responsible for the destruction of the relations between the two countries. Who killed that woman? British policemen killed her because they attacked our bureau** together with a group of Libyan terrorists **supported by airplanes and helicopters, and made a siege around our** embassy, and during that siege of the embassy the woman was killed. **Who killed her I do not know** but it was naturally **the British themselves. And they destroyed the relations which were good, and now they protect these terrorists, Libyan terrorists there.**

[Fitzthum] There is resistance to you and to the Libyan societal system, and there was a putsch. Who are your opponents?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **They are terrorists. We caught some of them who are outside. They declared** on Libyan television they wanted to come to our country **to assassinate some people, to burn, kill, and destroy, and they have no cause** because they have no problems. What does Libya need an opposition for? We need no opposition because the political and economic problems of our country have been already solved radically. **The authority now is in the hands of the people,** the People's Congress, the People's Committees. Why should there be an opposition? And besides, there is no possibility of opposition. They are against the people. **If they want to be against something, they are against the people and will thus have the entire people against them.** They will not face me, because I do not have any power. I am neither a president nor a king.

These Libyans who are terrorists, who have now started their actions, must be extradited to us by the **United States and England because the majority of them are wanted by Interpol. By the way,** a high Interpol representative will come to Libya these days, **this general who is responsible for the Interpol is visiting Libya currently now to discuss this matter. I am very sorry to see countries like the United States of America and England protect these terrorists and people wanted by the Interpol. It is very serious for international relations if states** do things like that.

They will destroy the international policy, the international law

and all the international good bases in the international behavior. These states **have no right to keep or protect them. They should hand them immediately to Libya. Of course they are serious, we will follow them and the Libyan people decided to follow them everywhere,** because they are murderers. **We must put an end to this everywhere.** These terrorists cannot justify their activities politically because they can come to Libya any time and participate in the work here **in the People's Committees, and they can say everything they want.** But they wish rather to destroy and kill, **and this is why it is necessary to follow them and to put an end to their work.**

[Fitzthum] Does this imply you will also kill your opponents?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **They have grenades, they have pistols, they have rifles, they have TNT, they are being trained now in the United States, England, and Sudan.** We must put an end to that in every respect. **There are some Libyans outside who do not want to come to Libya.** But they are not terrorists even though they possibly hate me and their country—they have no activities, no activities outside.

[Fitzthum] There have been many death sentences lately. I have seen executions on Libyan television myself. Who were these people?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **These people who trained outside entered here secretly to assassinate many people and to destroy many establishments. They even wanted to put poison into** the water supply system **everywhere.** [several words indistinct] **And you see they have been judged in front of People's Conferences which decided to sentence them to death.**

[Fitzthum] Thus it is with a smile that Al-Qadhdhafi endorses death sentences and the persecution and murder of Libyan oppositionists, whom he terms terrorists. But he started to perspire in doing so. [At this point Al-Qadhdhafi is shown mopping his brow] The interview switches to Libya's role in the Arab world and the problem of the schism. Or specifically, is Libya a factor of more unity? Al-Qadhdhafi replies slowly and evasively.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **Our goal is to realize the unity of all Arab countries in one state** to achieve a community of states comparable with the United States or the Soviet Union. **But the Arab governments and rulers are obstacles in this way** because every one of them wants to rule his own country and people like kings ruled earlier **in Italy, Piedmont, Naples, Rome, and so forth; every one of them wants a state to govern. But we want the Arab people, the people to govern themselves.** This will naturally cause difficulties in the Arab world at the beginning. But after these problems, the unity of the Arab world will be again restored. **But after this trouble will be the unity, and it is the right in history** [several words indistinct].

[Fitzthum] Do you regard yourself as the leader of the Arab world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **I am not speaking about figures, I am speaking about ideas. My idea is to unify the Arab countries in one state.** This also agrees with the wishes of the majority of the Arab people, and I regard myself as a **soldier in this historical battle.**

[Fitzthum] Do you think that you are now internationally isolated even within the Arab world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **I do not feel that, because we have manyof friends in the world. Among them a superpower, the Soviet Union, for example, is our close friend. The socialist countries also are our friends.** At the same time there is Austria, for example. Many countries are our friends in the East and West, in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. But the most important thing is that the masses everywhere in the world are behind us, even in America, Sudan, and Egypt. **The people are supporting us, the people are with us. There are bad relations of course, with some governments, but** governments change and the peoples remain **and we are friends with the peoples everywhere.**

[Fitzthum] You said 2 years ago in an interview with the Austrian radio and television service: I am a revolutionary and not a politician. Has this changed in any respect?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] **No, nothing has changed. It is so. I am a revolutionary, of course.** We support the peoples and the peoples support me. It is particularly the revolutionaries throughout the world who are with me. And we shall initiate a new era, the era of the masses.

Tunisian Commentary on Joint Relations Dismissed

LD180057 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The official TUNISIA AFRICA PRESS Agency [TAP] 2 days ago on Saturday, carried a commentary on relations between the Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. The agency considered the arrest of three Tunisian border guards for security reasons by the popular authorities in Libya as damaging these relations. On the other hand, it noted Tunisia had endeavored and still endeavors to safeguard relations of cooperation between Tunisia and Libya.

Here we do not like to go into the contradictions in the TAP commentary, because we realize the mutual desire and eagerness to continue relations of cooperation between brothers can never be a basis for arguments. As long as there is a desire to extend the bridges of cooperation relations, it is also impossible to make trivial exchanges or transient incidents into reasons to affect or hinder these relations. Everything can be overlooked and damage put to right without having to expose relations between our two countries to dangers that do not serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples.

This has always been our objective. We have always believed the continuation of relations and their forward surge calls for sacrifice from both sides for the sake of safeguarding the relations and protecting them against all attempts at intrigue and sedition. But we were surprised to hear TAP talk in an official voice making out of trivial incidents and transient exchanges the heart and essence of relations and a reason to suspend joint cooperation. Naturally, this is contrary to our view on and evaluation of the high level of relations of cooperation between our two coutnries and peoples. For one cannot in any event believe as TAP believes, that joint cooperation between the two countries should stop merely on account of secondary causes or transient interaction and incidents, whose occurrence is regarded as normal and a healthy sign of the continuation of relations. Such trivial and transient issues cannot be held onto, and they must not affect the essence of our relationship or the great joint action between us. Nor must we make, from the point of the desire and conviction about which TAP was talking, an excuse to suspend cooperation. We regret this is what has happened.

Here, we affirm the soundness of our vision and view on an evaluation of the relations; indeed, we first of all confirm the truth that the revolutionary card is the winning card which recognizes the fact that the essence of relations must not be tampered with, whatever trivial matters may affect the fringes of these relations. We, as the brother leader of the revolution affirmed, are closer to each other. We are brothers who may fall out or fight one another and do anything, but we are one people and one nation. This is the correct way to understand relations, and it is the way in which the brothers in Tunisia must also see them, provided, as TAP says, there is desire to safeguard Tunisian-Libyan relations from anything that can expose their present and future to dangers that harm the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

Niger Foreign Minister Leaves After Visit

LD162100 Tripoli JANA in English 1742 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Tripoli, Ramadan 17, Jun 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Niger Mr Ide Oumarou left Tripoli this afternoon after a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

'Abu Musa Quoted Calling for 'Arafat Downfall

LD152036 Tripoli JANA in English 1436 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Beirut, 16 Ramadan, 14 June, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Colonel Muhammad Sa'id Musa called 'Abu Musa, one of the leaders of the new revolutionary movement of 'Fatah,' has accused 'Arafat of treason and collaboration in the American programmes.

In an interview with REUTERS agency, 'Abu Musa said that 'Arafat had [word indistinct] and taken the decision to collaborate with the American projects including Reagan's and Camp David projects which confirm nationally his betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

'Abu Musa called for 'Arafat's removal and downfall, because of his violation of the Palestinian National Charter, his numerous contacts and meetings with the Zionists and his adoption of Camp David project as well as his persistent attempts to involve the Jordanian regime in the Palestinian decisionmaking process.

Colonel 'Abu Musa further accused 'Arafat aides of meeting with Abba Eban, the Zionist former foreign minister and with members of the Zionist Labour Party in April last year. In addition to the participation of groups of 'Arafat people in the Zionist congress held in Morocco last May.

Colonel 'Abu Musa reasserted that the revolutionary movement internally and abroad would confront 'Arafat's plans and foil them; thus, it would become necessary to remove him from the leadership of the Palestinian liberation movement.

MOROCCO

Information Ministry Statement on Border Clash

LD161023 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1007 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Rabat, 16 Jun (MAP) — A statement issued by the Moroccan Information Ministry announced today that a patrol of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces on a mission of supplies and exchange at the Moroccan post at (Hassi Librarbir), south of Boudenib, took a secondary road by mistake inside Algerian territory on the border between the two countries.

It was intercepted by an Algerian patrol and a minor clash took place. Contacts were made immediately between Moroccan and Algerian officials at the minister of the interior level to keep this incident, which was only a brief incident, in its true dimensions.

Briefs

Cultural Program With Poland — Rabat, June 16 (MAP) — Morocco and Poland concluded here Friday a cultural and scientific cooperation program for the years 1984, 1985, and 1986. Under this program, the two countries will bolster their bilateral cooperation and exchanges in the areas of education, sciences, culture, art, press and information, social affairs, handicraft, and youth and sports. The agreement was initialled on the Moroccan side by director of cultural relations department at the Foreign Ministry and on the Polish side by the director of the press and cultural and scientific cooperation department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 16 Jun 84 LD]

SUDAN

Egypt's AKHBAR AL-YAWM Interviews Numayri

NC161516 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri has asserted the situation in south Sudan is quiet despite the weapons Ethiopia is sending and the camps it is setting up to train mercenaries.

In an interview to be published tomorrow by the weekly newspaper *AKHBAR AL-YAWM*, President Numayri says the events in the south are part of the campaign against Sudan and have no connection with the application of Islamic law because these events started before its application.

Numayri adds that the problem is created because some neighbors use their resources to export their troubles to us instead of solving them, even though Sudan has accepted many of their refugees.

In the interview, President Numayri accuses Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of plotting against Sudan. He also accuses the Soviet Union of being behind the plot.

President Numayri defends the application of Islamic law in Sudan. He says he has worked toward this objective since the 1969 revolution and that it was contained in the revolution's ideology. He asks whether the application of Islamic law requires all this clamor from voices whose aims are no secret to us. He stresses the Islamic path which Sudan has accepted is a fateful choice from which there can be no deviation.

He says Sudan is carefully watching the lengthy meetings held inside and outside the country to destroy what he has built within the Islamic framework.

Concluding his interview, President Numayri stresses the Constitution has been amended to guarantee the minorities' rights. He says Islam has guaranteed the Muslims' rights. It alsp guaranteesthe status of non-Muslims because Islam orders they should be allowed to practice their religious beliefs.

UK Parliamentarian Cited on African Politics

JN162129 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1735 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 16 Jun (SUNA) — (Louis Fitz-Gibbon), secretary general of the British Horn of Africa and Aden Council, stressed the need for the international community to understand the magnitude of the refugee problem in Sudan as well as its efforts to provide them refuge. He also stressed the need to support Sudan and to find a solution to the refugee problem, as the rate of influx into the country is rapidly increasing. He pointed out this is a part of the council's concerns.

This came in reply to a SUNA correspondent's question during (Fitz-Gibbon's) news conference in Khartoum today which was also attended by Information and Culture Minister 'Ali Muhammad Shammu.

(Fitz-Gibbon) said the council will discuss Sudan's refugee problem during its 28 June meeting in London within the context of the African refugee problem. The pointed out the Western press should understand the problems of the Horn of Africa.

In the news conference, (Fitz-Gibbon) expressed his opinion that Sudan needs Western support to face the threat from the Libyan and Ethiopian regimes. Pointing to the aggressive incident against the Sudanese broadcasting station last March and the recent incidents in the South, he said these events demonstrated the Libyan and Ethiopian roles in serving Soviet interests, which aim at controlling Northeast Africa and implementing an expansionist policy in the region similar to Soviet policy in Afghanistan.

He asserted the need to attract Western support to confront the events in the Horn of Africa and what he described as the international conspiracy of silence over Ethiopia's role in all this. He added the Soviets are trying to establish permanent bases in the continent, Ethiopia, and Libya to facilitate their movements. He said these movements threaten Sudan's security because they are so close to its borders, especially because Soviet intervention will be faster due to their proximity. He pointed to the Soviet airlift to Ethiopia during the 1978 Ogaden war.

He pointed out that peace in the Horn of Africa can only be achieved through Soviet withdrawal from Ethiopia, and through military and political support for Sudan and Somalia so they can preserve peace and security in the Horn of Africa. He stressed the importance of the media's role in this.

It is worth mentioning that the council was established in Britain last January. It consists of 36 members from the British and European parliaments as well as experts on Horn of Africa and Aden affairs. Its aim is to acquaint public opinion with states in this region, and to present factual information on the region to world policymakers to clearly expose the Soviet strategy there.

TUNISIA

Libya Blamed for Problems in Cooperation

LD161307 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] A TAP commentary says the following: It was surprising that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said in his speech on 11 June 1984 Tunisia was to blame for obstructing the march of cooperation between the two countries because of what was termed as a minor border dispute.

Tunisia has acted and still acts to preserve the Tunisian-Libyan relationship of cooperation, proceeding in this from its faith in the principles of neighborliness and the need for cooperation between brothers. Despite the recent developments in relations between the two countries, it has been anxious to adhere to this line.

However, the insistence of the Libyan authorities not to release the three National Guards kidnapped on 8 May still constitutes an obstacle likely to affect the clarity of relations between the two countries. It is worth noting the Libyan authorities promised, officially and on many occasions, to release the detained guards. A press statement to this effect was made by Mr 'Ali at-Turayki, secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. Despite such official and open promises the Libyan authorities have not yet released the detained guards, a matter constituting a grave and persistent transgression of Tunisian sovereignty. For this reason the Libyan authorities alone bear responsibility for this situation.

Former Interior Minister Guiga, Aide Sentenced

LD162118 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The Supreme Court chaired by Abdessalam Mahjoub at 1630 today passed judgement in the case of high treason against the accused Driss Guiga, former interior minister, and his two accomplices Abdelhamid Skhiri, former director of police, and Ezzeddine Driss, a former police governor.

The court's proceedings continued for 3 days after a week's adjournment at the request of the defense in order to be able to study the case's files. The court's deliberations took about 3 hours after which the president of the court read out the following judgment:

After deliberation in accordance with the law, the Supreme Court has passed sentence. First: on Driss Guiga in absentia to 10 years hard labor for deliberately overstepping the bounds of authority and committing acts harmful to the supreme interests of the homeland, to 5 years in prison for illegal gains, and deprivation of civil and political rights and medals for a period of 10 years. The sentence of imprisonment is added to the sentence of hard labor and his assets are to be placed in trust after their seizure.

Second: Abdelhamid Skhiri is sentenced to 5 years for being an accomplice to Driss Guiga in all except the crime of illegal gains, and is deprived of civil and political rights and medals for 5 years.

Third: No court proceedings and acquittal in favor of Ezzeddine Driss.

The lawyers who defended the last two defendants lauded the good atmosphere in which the trial took place. They thanked the president of the court for his patience. The president of the court also thanked the defense for responding and for its defense, which has been proper and within the framework of the law.

ETHIOPIA

Chairman Mengistu Receives DPRK, Swedish Officials

EA152252 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, PMAC and COPWE chairman and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, today received a message sent by DPRK leader President Kim Il-Song. The message was delivered by Comrade Ho Dam, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, at the chairman's COPWE office. The message centered on the friendship and expanding cooperation between the two countries. On this occasion our comrade revolutionary leader thanked the DPRK for the support it gives to revolutionary Ethiopia, and affirmed his belief that cooperation will continue in the future.

Our comrade revolutionary leader held talks with Mr (Gustav Agrenm), deputy minister of international development cooperation in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During the talks the comrade chairman praised Sweden's support for Ethiopia. Mr (Agrenm) assured Comrade Chairman Mengistu that Sweden will continue to cooperate.

KENYA

Foreign Minister Meets Zimbabwean Counterpart

MB141346 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Text] The foreign minister, Comrade Witness Mangwende, has held talks with his Kenyan counterpart, Mr Elijah Mwangale. During the talks held in Nairobi yesterday, the two ministers reviewed ways of strengthening economic cooperation among eastern and southern African countries. The KENYAN NEWS AGENCY, KNA, reports that Mr Mwangale called for the strengthening of trade ties between Zimbabwe and Kenya through the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, in order to help enhance African and subregional trade. Mr Mwangale stressed that the PTA is of importance to the economic development of eastern and southern African states which have a total export capacity of about 7 billion dollars. On southern Africa, Mwangale reiterated Kenya's stand that Namibia should get independence immediately in accordance with the United Nations resolution, and appealed to the United Nations Security Council to ensure this without delay. Comrade Mangwende, who arrived in Nairobi yesterday for a week's official visit to Kenya, also delivered a special message from the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, to the Kenyan president, Mr Daniel arap Moi.

Finance Minister Comments on Proposed Budget

EA152001 Nairobi KNA in English 1625 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Text] Nairobi: Reduced prices for nails, dry cell batteries, squashes, the Ajax, Vim detergents and toothpaste are to be announced by the price controller following reduction of sales tax on the consumer items today by Finance Minister George Saitoti during his budget speech in parliament today. The prices of cigarettes and beer will however go up. Prices of the high brand of cigarettes like "Rex" and "State Express" have been increased by 1.50 per packet, while popular brands of cigarettes will now be sold for Ksh 1 more per packet. The brands include "Sportsman," and "Embassy." The price of "Nyota" has been increased by 50 cents per packet. The price of one litre bottle of beer and that of 1/2 litre bottle of beer will also go up by 30 cents. The prices have gone up following sales tax increase on the luxurious consumer items.

Prof Saitoti also announced fiscal and monetary measures aimed at stimulating private sector demand for bank credit. The maximum interest rates chargeable on loans by commercial banks have been reduced from 15 to 14 per cent with computation of the interest rate based on reducing balance. The maximum interest rate charged by non-bank financial institutions has also been reduced from 20 to 19 per cent with computation of interest based on a reducing balance.

This year's budgetary deficit is projected at 4 per cent compared to 4.7 per cent in the last years budget. The following is the statement of the minister for finance and planning, Mr George Saitoti after his budget speech:

This afternoon, I presented to the National Assembly the budget for the financial year 1984/85. This year's budget contains a wide range of measures intended to reactivate the economy which has been adversely affected by the recent world recession.

In the speech, I outlined how government intends to finance public expenditure amounting to Ksh1,466 million which is the forecast estimate for the various ministries of the government. This represents an increase of about 16 per cent over the voted provisions for the current year and only about 10 percent above what I actually expect ministries to have spent by 30th June this year. Although the actual increase in absolute figures is over Ksh100 million more than in the current year, the proportionate increase is roughly the same as the rate of anticipated rate of domestic inflation. This means that only modest improvements in services can be undertaken next financial year. I have therefore appealed to civil servants to improve efficiency and avoid unnecessary waste in the utilization of funds voted by parliament.

The services that will receive the highest financial allocation during the year are education (Ksh218 million), health (Ksh68 million), agriculture (Ksh58 million) and office of the president (Ksh85 million). The highest development expenditures will go to transport and communications (Ksh84 million), agriculture and livestock (Ksh42 million), energy and regional development (Ksh42 million) and water (Ksh34 million).

In order to enable manufacturers to make use of idle capacity and generate additional employment, I reduced rates of duty on imported raw materials and capital equipment. I also increased the rate of export compensation so that it will now be more lucrative for manufacturers to export. Such increased exports would raise the foreign exchange needed for our imports. I emphasized the need for efficiency in the private sector in order to make our products competitive in the export market.

To enable me to recover the loss of revenue occasioned by duty reductions, I have increased the rates of sales tax on some items such as cars and computers. I have however endeavoured to ensure that this increase in sales tax does not affect the prices of basic consumer goods like maize meal, salt, etc. I have also reduced the rates of sales tax on such commodities as dry cell batteries, squashes, toothpaste and nails whose prices have been reduced accordingly. I am afraid I have found it necessary to slightly increase the taxes on beer and cigarettes. A bottle of beer will now cost 30 cents more while some cigarettes such as Rex, Sportsman, and Nyota will cost Ksh1.50, Ksh1.00 and 50 cents respectively per packet.

I have have increased the number of housing financial institutions that can operate housing development bond accounts whose interest is tax free. I have also reduced the rates of withholding tax payable by foreign investors in order to encourage increased foreign investment in Kenya. In order to partly raise foreign exchange and partly increase revenue, I have raised the air passenger tax and required that the tax shall be paid in foreign currency equivalent to 10 dollars with effect from tomorrow.

In short, the measures I have announced today are aimed at restructuring the economy so that further progress can be made towards a better and sustainable balance in our external trade supported by increased efficiency at home. These measures will require manufacturers to operate more efficiently in order to enable them to penetrate markets and keep their domestic prices competitive.

I have pointed out the economic hardships and difficulties facing us in the coming year, and particularly the drought. I have indicated that there is no need for panic as the government will ensure that there is adequate food for everybody. I have faith and confidence that Kenyans can take the challenges facing us of changing hope into reality in the spirit of Nyayo.

SOMALIA

DFSS Calls on Somalis To Rise Against Regime

EA161935 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The secretary of the organization section of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces, Dr (Muhammad Farah Jimaleh), called on the Somali public in Ghel Gudut, Hiran, Mudugh, and Nogal regions and in the entire country to confront with an iron fist the bloody regime of General Mohamed Siad Barre which has unleashed savage acts against the people, including pressing them into the Army. The secretary, Dr (Muhammad Farah Jimaleh), disclosed that the dictatorial Barre regime has begun savage new repressive measures against the general public in Ghel Gudut, Hiran, Mudugh, and Nogal regions and throughout the entire country. Dr (Muhammad Farah Jimaleh) added that because of the savage and inhumane acts unleashed on the general public by the Barre regime, many Somalis have started fleeing their motherland into neighboring countries, abandoning their property. The secretary of the organization section of the DFSS urged the entire Somali community to shake off the shackles of the colonial and nation-wrecking regime of Mohamed Siad Barre.

DFSS Division, Civilians Battle Barre Forces

EA152006 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 14

[Summary] The 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces have engaged in an artillery duel with Barre loyalist troops at Galdogob in which two of the latter were killed, four wounded and several of the APC's were burned. Another report from the 9th General Aynanshe Division confirms that about 400 students, workers, civilians, and soldiers defected to the DFSS in the (Khorof) area between 10 and 13 June. The defectors stated that they had decided to join the DFSS because they could no longer tolerate the oppressive Barre regime. One hundred and fifty of the defectors were Barre loyalist soldiers, who brought with them 146 AK rifles. Reports from Ghel Gudut, Nogal, and Senag regions say Barre troops are pressing civilians into the forces. A confrontation has ensued, resulting in actual fighting between the people and the soldiers, which is still in progress in some areas. Several hundred civilians were killed by the Barre troops in the three regions.

Rebels Welcome Armed Defectors

EA161947 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Reports from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces confirm that about 621 armed persons, most of them from the Armed Forces, defected to the DFSS between 10 and 14 June. The reports confirm that the defectors include students, workers, troops, and nomads. The reports say that an additional 221 persons, most of them armed soldiers, defected to the front. Asked what forced them to defect to the DFSS bases, they said that they could no longer stand the savage oppression unleashed on them by the nation-wrecking regime and on the Somali people and country as a whole. They decided to join the armed struggle being waged by the Somali opposition forces in order to hasten the fall of the Mogadishu regime.

Further on Defectors

EA171515 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Reports from the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] wing of the Somali opposition forces confirm that many students, workers, members of the Somali Armed Forces, and nomads continue to arrive atthe (Dogob) base of the DFSS. The latest report says that on 14 June, 280 armed persons defected to the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS wing of the Somali opposition forces. The new fighters who have now joined the armed struggle to topple the Mogadishu regime say that they have been forced to flee from the barbaric oppression of the Mogadishu terror regime. Radio Halgan's political analyst says that between 10 and 14 June, over 950 persons, most of them soldiers formerly loyal to the fascist regime of General Barre, have defected to the DFSS.

TANZANIA

Zanzibar To Protest Currency Devaluation Action

EA161652 Zanzibar Domestic Service in Swahili
1600 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The Zanzibar Government will inform the party to take the necessary steps over the action the Union Government took to devalue the Tanzanian currency without consulting the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. Announcing the decision in the session of the House of Representatives, Chief Minister Ndugu Seif Sharif Hamad said that the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar will take this step in the belief that justice was not accorded it in the whole question concerning this issue. He said that the Tanzanian currency is under the authority of the two governments, namely the Union Government and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. Ndugu Seif said that the decision to devalue the Tanzanian currency, which is also the currency used here in the islands, will greatly affect the Zanzibar economy together with the total funds of the budget for the year 1984/85. The chief minister described this action as regrettable because of the mode of cooperation daily emphasized by the party and the two governments.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives members asked for the convening of an emergency session of the House of Representatives which should also be attended by the Zanzibar MP's currently attending the budget session in Dar es Salaam, in order to debate more deeply the question of the devaluing of the currency of Tanzania announced the day before yesterday by the Union Government. The decision was made after a heated debate by the members of the House of Representatives noting the regret of the minister of finance of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, Ndugu Taimur Salih, namely that the Tanzanian Government in announcing this measure without informing the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar violates the act [kitendo] of cooperation which is being stressed every day by the party and the two governments.

Chief Minister: Justice Not Done

EA171522 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
0345 GMT 17 Jun 84

[From press review]

[Text] Devaluation of the Tanzanian shilling: Zanzibar is grumbling. This is the news on the front page of both papers today. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has issued an official statement claiming that justice was not done to it since it was not informed or consulted on the whole issue of the devaluation of the Tanzanian shilling, the Zanzibar chief minister, Ndugu Seif Shariff Hamad, announced yesterday in the House of Representatives. Ndugu Hamad said that by this action, justice was not done to Zanzibar to the degree it deserves, as Zanzibar is one of the two countries that constitute the United Republic of Tanzania, which by law has only one currency. The chief minister's statement followed a heated debate by members of the house, after a brief statement by Zanzibari Finance Minister Ndugu Taimur Swaleh Jume, which explained that the move to devalue the Tanzanian shilling by 26 percent was performed without consultation between the institutions involved and contrary to the insistence that the relevant institutions of the two countries ought to cooperate and consult each other on issues relating to the union.

Accordingly, the chief minister informed the house that the Government of Zanzibar expects to take two immediate measures to explain Zanzibar's dissatisfaction at the move to devalue the shilling as the government believes that one side of the union government had full knowledge of the central bank move to devalue the shilling.

Diplomatic Staff Reduced as Austerity Measure

EA162102 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1000 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] As an austerity measure, the government will reduce the size of its diplomatic missions beginning with start of the 1984/85 fiscal year. This was stated in parliament today by the acting foreign minister, Ndugu Joseph Warioba, in answer to a question on reducing expenses in the missions. Ndugu Warioba said the measure would continue until the economic situation improves. To a proposal to close down some missions, Ndugu Warioba said such a move could not be made because it could be construed to indicate the existence of poor relations between Tanzania and countries concerned.

Nyerere Supports Purchase of Technology

EA171541 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1700 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Dodoma: Party chairman Mwalimu Nyerere today explained that the building of socialism does not mean noncooperation with capitalist countries in learning or purchasing technology that will develop the nation. Officially closing the 3-month special training course of district party leaders that ended at the party college at Humburu, not far from Dodoma, Mwalimu stressed that there are certain machines and equipment that must be bought from capitalist countries. He said that the buying of technology from capitalist countries does not mean that socialism would not be built, because socialism is built out of faith and on well-entrenched foundations of leaders and party members under the policy of socialism and self-reliance. Mwalimu asked members, especially leaders, to understand fully the actual situation in the world. Replying to a message from the college students, Mwalimu stressed that there are no miracles or shortcuts to socialism; only patience, tolerance, and faith which will enable Tanzania to attain its goal. However, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi chairman said that Tanzania had taken great strides in the building of socialism and that was why the capitalists are waging war against it.

Concerning complaints about the release of certain saboteurs, Mwalimu said he wants the people to develop the habit of placing faith in the courts. He warned that a tendency to assume that bribery is involved when accused persons are released has emerged. Mwalimu stressed that a prerequisite of sincere management of the country is not to imprison people without cause. He warned that once an accused person has been acquitted by the court, he should not be rearrested by other government organizations on the same charge.

Call to Overthrow RSA Marks Soweto Anniversary

EA171546 Dar es Salaam External Service in English
1600 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The Pan-Africanist Congress of South Africa today marked the eighth anniversary of the Soweto students uprising with the call on the people of South Africa to consolidate the struggle to overthrow the South African apartheid regime. The call was contained in a statement issued in Dar es Salaam by the external office of the PAC to mark the uprising during which over 500 pupils were killed in cold blood while protesting against the inferior so-called Bantu education system in South Africa. In the statement, the PAC director for publicity, and information, Ndugu (Edwin Makotu), deplored the South African regime's oppressive policies. The PAC declared that South Africans have no choice but to wage a systematic struggle against the Pretoria regimes policies until final victory is achieved.

UGANDA

President Obote Delivers Speech on Budget

LD151902 Kampala Domestic Service in English
1154 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Speech on the 1984-85 budget delivered by President Milton Obote to the National Assembly — live]

[Excerpts] Mr Speaker, the marketed volume of coffee, which had fallen to below 100,000 metric tons during 1980/81 crops year, reached a level of about 192,000 metric tons, representing a 92 percent increase over the period. Cotton production, which had fallen below 25,000 bales during the crops year 1979/80 is now estimated to reach a level of 100,000 bales representing an increase of 300 percent over the period. [applause]

Mr Speaker, production of tea, tobacco, and cocoa have also more than doubled during 1983/84. Programs are in hand and funds have been mobilized to increase the levels toward, in the first instance, our previous big achievement. Production in the food sector has increased remarkably, and Uganda is now self-sufficient in food [applause] and has the capacity to export substantial food supplies, particularly maize.

Mr Speaker, there has been steady increase throughout the fiscal year under review of domestically produced consumer goods. This was supplemented by substantial volume of importation with the result that there was no shortage of essential consumer goods.

Sir, as honrable members will see from the 1984/85 development budget, the support Uganda is receiving from the international organizations, friendly countries and the world at large is most noteworthy and calls upon the people of Uganda to continue to improve their performance in all fields of endeavor. This external support to our efforts is a measure that Uganda has regained her respect in the community of nations and that Uganda now deserves assistance. We should build the future of this firm foundation of goodwill and reciprocate by continued and increased levels of good performance.

During the fiscal year under review, Mr Speaker, Uganda signed an agreement and various protocols for the effective establishment of the PTA for eastern and southern African states. A finance bill to be presented to the house will include proposals for the establishment of a preferential trade market within the east subregion of Africa.

In the east African subregion, the matters of the assets and liabilities of the former East African Community have now been settled. It has been agreed that five of the institutions of the former EAC should remain jointly owned by the former partner states. The five services are the Soroti flying school, the East African Development Bank in Kampala, the East African Interuniversity Committee, the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute, and the East Africa Library Services.

Mr Speaker, in the settlement formula it was agreed that Uganda had a considerable shortfall of its equitable share of assets amounting to $191 million, whereas Kenya and Tanzania both got surpluses. Consequently, it was agreed that Kenya would pay Uganda $145 million and that Tanzania would pay Uganda $46 million. Arrangements for the modes of payment have been agreed. Mr Speaker, the east African governments have also all expressed the desire that new forms of economic cooperation be examined and ministers from the three countries will be called upon to undertake this responsibility.

Mr Speaker, the house is aware that the government has carried out since 1981 three stabilization programs, including the current one, with the support of the IMF. The central characteristic of all the three stabilization programs has been that of the fund assisting Uganda in rectifying the short-term balance of payments situation. There is no doubt that the contribution of the IMF has greatly assisted the recovery of the economy. The government reviewed the balance of payments position in May 1984 with a mission from the fund. Both sides agreed that for the fiscal year 1983/84 ending 30 June this year, Uganda's overall balance of payments will be in surplus [applause] and that the situation will be continued in the next fiscal year.

Mr Speaker, preliminary estimates of our balance of payments for the fiscal year 1983-1984 indicates that the overall surplus will be around $34 million as against an overall deficit of $98 million during 1982-1983 fiscal year. Mr Speaker, this happy situation came about largely because of the increased volumes of and earnings from our exports, which in themselves constitute proof of the successful implementation of government's policy on producer price. The balance of payments prospects for 1984-1985 are good, and Uganda should record an overall surplus at the end of the next fiscal year.

Mr Speaker, when government's economic and financial programs were first introduced in 1981, it was realized by government that one of the instruments to correct and transform the depressed situation would be to give incentives to farmers and workers. It has been government's policy to review from time to time producers prices, salaries and wages. In pursuance of government policy, I announce that from Monday, 18 June, 1984 producer prices will be increased as follows:

Coffee unhulled robusta from 100 shillings to 130 shillings per kilogram; coffee arabica parchment from 155 shillings to 210 shillings per kilgram;
Cotton safi (ar) from 90 shillings to 120 shillings per kilograms; cotton [word indistinct] (br) from 50 shillings to 62 shillings per kg;
Tea, green leaves, from 40 shillings to 45 shillings per kilogram;
Tobacco, fire-cured, from 135 shillings to 150 shillings per kilogram; tobacco, fluecured from 200 shillings to 220 shillings per kilogram.

Mr Speaker, rehabilitation and development needs make it vital that the public service and other public sector institutions such as the University of Makarere and the teaching service should function effectively in line with the government commitment to improve the efficiency of the public service and other public sector institutions government has decided on further adjustments to their salaries and wages. [shouts of approval]

Mr Speaker, the minimum wage for all group exmployees in category A shall be raised to shillings 6,000 per month. [loud shouts of approval]. Mr Speaker, I said the minimum wage for all group employees in category A shall be raised to 6,000 shillings per month, beginning July 1984, and the wages of all group employees in category B to K will be adjusted upwards on prorata basis.

Mr Speaker, all persons in new scales, including clerical officers and all persons in permanent and pensionable posts, will receive salary increases of four and a half times on average, effective July 1984. Mr Speaker, sir, I said on average, but no one on any new scale will receive less than three times his or her present salary. These adjustments also apply to pensioners, Mr Speaker.

I propose, Mr Speaker, that the dual exchange rates window one, window two, be unified into one door [laughter] on 15 June 1984 at a rate to be struck at the auction on that day. Mr Speaker, sir, the (?testing) of the auction will continue to operate as at present, virtually with no major changes. The analysis of the operations of window two have shown that some bidders obtain in one day all their foreign exchange requirements through high quotation and the excess above the marginal rate which were returned to them immediately. I now propose that this kind of excess be refunded to the successful bidder by way of issuance of 91 days (?nondiscountable) treasury bills.

Mr Speaker, the estimate of expenditure for the year 1984/85 is expected to be 199,000 million shillings. Net recurrent expenditure is budgeted at 89,000 million shillings and [word indistinct] recurrent is expected to be 28,000 million shillings. The estimates of (?projected) expenditure including statutory development expenditure is 81,000 million shillings. The projected deficit is 5,627 million shillings, which I propose to finance by borrowing 4,000 million shippings from the banking system and the rest from nonbanking sources.

Taxation proposals: Mr Speaker, the finance bill will contain a number of measures to streamline the collection of tax revenue. Sales tax: Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce sales tax on Uganda waragi [banana gin] [laughter] from 80 percent to 20 percent. Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce sales tax on gunny bags from 110.82 percent to 40 percent. Mr Speaker, I propose to suspend for 1 year sales tax on locally manufactured (?sugar). Mr Speaker, I propose to suspend for 1 year sales tax on (?batching) oil, and I propose, Mr Speaker to suspend sales tax for 1 year on steel bars.

Customs duty: Mr Speaker, I propose to abolish the existing 20 percent customs duty on exercise books. I propose to suspend for 1 year customs duty on fluorspar. And I propose to suspend for 1 year customs duty on gypsum for making cement. Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce customs duty from 350 percent to 250 percent on imported beer. [laughter] Mr Speaker, I propose to raise customs duty from 100 percent to 200 percent on imported cigarettes. Mr Speaker, sir, I propose to increase customs duty from 200 percent to 300 percent on whisky. [laughter]

Mr Speaker, excise duty: I propose to suspend for 1 year excise duty on locally manufactured sugar. And I propose to suspend for 1 year excise duty on Uganda waragi. And, Mr Speaker, I propose to reduce from 350 percent to 150 percent excise duty on locally manufactured beer.

I warn persons engaged in the export trade to steer clear of magendo [graft] practices and seek to widening their markets outside Uganda through normal trade for their own good, for the good of the country and for the good of our neighbors. Let no one engage any more in magendo trade, particularly in the form of smuggling goods either into Uganda or out of Uganda into neighboring states. Smuggling does no good to Uganda or to our neighbors. I am absolutely sure that our neighbors, just like ourselves, would want to trade with us openly. If the goods are required in Uganda, there is no reason why one should engage in smuggling of those goods into the country. We now have a legal system for the acquisition of the necessary foreign exchange for trade. I am sure that our neighbors will be happy if all our importers transacted business openly and legally.

As for our exporters, I emphasize that trade through panya [mouse] roads [laughter] or through corrupt practices can inflict pain on our neighbors. Some of our neighbors have a controlled price policy for a range of commodities. If Ugandan exporters were to send goods to those countries through panya roads, those exporters would disturb our neighbors' arrangements and thereby create serious economic problems for them. But where a neighboring state has no controlled price, it is still illegal to engage in smuggling activities. The doors of the Ministry of Commerce and the Bank of Uganda will always be open to give the necessary assistance to any Ugandan who is desirous to engage in export or import business

Mr Speaker, soon after the elections in Decmber 1980 the government identified two priority ills in the Ugandan society and engaged itself in overcoming those ills. The first of the ills is the problem connected with lawlessness, which results in loss of lives and destruction of property. There are three broad sources of lawlessness in Uganda. There is first the actions of criminal elements in society which actions we share with all countries in the world. Government has brought down the incidents of lawlessness by the criminal elements despite the fact that during the seventies, and particularly during the war of liberation, those elements acquired considerable amounts of arms.

The second source of lawlessness in Uganda stems from cattle rustlers. The cattle rustlers have done much harm to the people in Karamoja and to the people in the neighboring districts of Kitgum, Lira, Soroti, Kumi, Mbale, and Kapchorwa. These cattle rustlers did also acquire modern arms. Government called upon them in 1981, 1982, 1983, to surrender those weapons but with little success. This year, however, the situation appears to be changing for the better. More and more weapons are being surrendered.

The government calls upon all those people in Karamoja who have not yet surrendered their weapons to the authorities to do so. Mr Speaker, the present situation where more and more guns are being surrendered are to be encouraged and, as I have already told the House, government has in hand a special Karamoja development program, which should in future enable the people in Karamoja to abandon their nomadic way of life, increase their standard of living and be at peace inside Karamoja and with their neighbors.

Mr Speaker, the third source of lawlessness is political. There are only two parties represented in the National Assembly — the Uganda Peoples Congress [UPC] and the Democratic Party [DP]. I can say in my capacity as the elected leadler of UPC that no section of the membership of my party has been permitted and never shall be permitted to flout the policy and belief of the party in constitutional government. Any UPC member who commits any crime will not be protected by the government. [shouts of approval] I invite the honorable members of the opposition and the leadership of the DP to loudly and unequivocally say that their party will not condone similar acts committed by members of the DP.

Mr Speaker, I believe that the result of the two parties' saying the same thing in chorus will isolate the politically motivated gunmen and will deny these gunmen sanctuary anywhere in Uganda. Mr Speaker it is in the interest of the UPC and in the interest of the DP that both should stand and be counted for the democratic (?base) of government.

Mr Speaker, the second ill which government identified soon after the elections was the dissent by the people towards abject poverty. I have been speaking on this subject ever since I rose this afternoon and the parameters of the success against this ill are now well-known. Mr Speaker sir, we live in a most exciting period. The people of Uganda have known both prosperity and deprivation. It has been most exciting for all of us on both sides of the House to have been given the opportunity by the people to serve them at this particular period in the history of Uganda. We all began in 1981 with no beacon light except our confidence that the people of Uganda had the will and determination through democratic processes to uplift themselves from the depth of despair. In our endeavours towards the goal of unity, stability and prosperity we have been greatly assisted by the international community. Today we can see the future much more clearly than was possible in December 1980.

BURUNDI

Great Lakes Economic Community Holds Summit

EA180912 Bujumbura Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] The heads of state of the member-countries of the CEPGL [Economic Community of the Congress of the Great Lakes] ended their work late this morning. Rwandan President Major General Juvenal Habyarimana was appointed the new CEPGL acting president, and Citizen Umba Di Lutete, Zairean state commissioner for foreign affairs, was appointed chairman of the CEPGL Ministerial Council. The Rwandan and Zairean heads of state left Bujumbura early this afternoon following the end of the summit. We invite you to listen to the joint communique read by CEPGL executive secretary Antoine Nduwayo:

[Begin recording] Communique [word indistinct]: At the invitation of His Excellency Colonel Jean Baptiste Bagaza, president of UPRONA [National Unity and Progress Party] president of the Republic of Burundi and acting president of the conference, the seventh ordinary summit of the community's heads of state was held in Bujumbura from 16 to 17 June 1984.

His Excellency Colonel Jean Baptiste Bagaza, president of UPRONA, president of the Republic of Burundi; His Excellency Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, president founder of the MRND [National Revolutionary Development Movement] and president of the Republic of Rwanda; and Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbenddu Wa Za Banga, president founder of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution] and president of the Republic of Zaire, attended the session.

The heads of state paid particular attention to the briefing by the acting president of the CEPGL heads of states conference, who surveyed the achievements accomplished, notably in the economic, political, judicial, social, and cultural sectors. The CEPGL heads of state discussed matters of common interest.

At the end of the session, the following decisions were taken: In order to make the CEPGL more efficient, the conference assigned to the CEPGL permanent executive secretariat the responsibility of carrying out an evaluation of all the community's activities. The aim is to determine priority programs centered in economic sectors, without giving up the global objectives of the community. The study will consider the CEPGL permanent executive secretariat restructuring project in accordance with the priorities to be proposed.

Concerning administrative and budgetary matters, the conference fixed the community's budget for the year 1984 at 2,296,810 units of account for the ordinary budget, and at 29,414 units of account for the extraordinary budget.

After examining the permanent executive secretariat's study relating to the [word indistinct] apportionment of the CEPGL member-states' contributions, the conference decided that the study should be completed, and assigned the permament executive secretariat the task of performing an in-depth study which will take into account the new criteria.

On economic integration, the conference decided on commercial and customs duty cooperation and the easing of intercommunity restrictions on trade for various items. Lists of the [word indistinct] products will be announced in 3 months.

Following the proposal of the ministerial and state commissioner's council, the conference approved the program of activities and the calendar for the community's meetings for the year 1984. The conference also adopted the CEPGL coat of arms and the community's flags.

The heads of state signed amendments relating to the convention of the 20 September 1976 on the creation of the CEPGL and its additional drafts relating to specialized technical commissions and the consultative commission. The conference noted with satisfaction that work on the central hydroelectric dam on the Ruzizi River, phase two, will begin very soon. The conference reaffirmed the commitment of the CEPGL countries to support the community's enterprises [enterprises communes] in order to increase their viability. The heads of state reaffirmed the importance they attach to the maintenance of security on their common borders. They expressed their desire to continue promoting subregional cooperation and regional [passage indistinct].

The three heads of state reviewed international events and particularly the situation in Africa. They made known their position on [word indistinct] in Africa and the Gulf, with a spirit open to dialogue and consultation [words indistinct]. They expressed the hope that the 20th OAU summit will be held very soon. The conference session was held in a friendly and brotherly atmosphere and an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The conference appointed His Excellency Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, president founder of the MRND and president of the Republic of Rwanda, to the presidency of CEPGL heads of state conference for the year 1984. They also approved the appointment of citizen Umba di Lutete, a Central Committee member and state commissioner for foreign affairs and international cooperation of the Republic of Zaire, as president of the CEPGL ministerial and state commissioners council for the same period.

The conference decided to hold the next ordinary session in the Rwandan republic in September 1985. It also decided that an extraordinary meeting at the ministerial and state commissioner level will take place in September 1984 to fix the 1985 budget.

His Excellency Major General Juvenal Habyarimana, president founder of the MRND, president of the Republic of Rwanda, and Marshal Mobutu Sese Sekou Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, thanked His Excellency Colonel Jean Baptiste Bagaza, president of UPRONA and president of the Republic of Burundi, the government and the people of Burundi for the warm and authentically African welcome conveyed to them and their respective delegations in the course of their stay in the Republic of Burundi.

Signed in Bujumbura 17 June 1984

CHAD

AFP on Habre Prospects, Successful Cotton Harvest

AB171110 Paris AFP in English 1047 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, June 17 (AFP) — Chadian President Hissein Habre seems set to win his battle for control of the country's southern provinces, following the surrender of some 12,000 rebels against his rule and a very good harvest of cotton, Chad's principal resource, authoritative sources said here.

Four thousand southern soldiers were recently integrated into the national army, the same source said. Others will follow, become government employees, or be given "other tasks." However some pockets of resistance comprising several hundred men are said to be still active along Chad's southern border with the Central African Republic. The source said that contacts were still being maintained with them in an effort to presuade them to surrender. The source said Mr. Habre was determined to ensure that these rebels were not taken over by Libya or the GUNT to reopen the "southern front."

Meanwhile officials of Cotontchad were threatened with death and a number of farmers "mutilated" during the recent cotton sowing, apparently with the aim of preventing the next cotton season being as good as the last. For Mr. Habre's prestige has been strengthened by the successful havest, and Cotontchad is guardedly optimistic. "In spite of wide areas of insecurity in southern Chad last year, we have had unhoped-for results," an official said.

The 160,000 tonne crop lifted Chad into number two spot after Egypt among Africa's cotton producers and Cotontchad has a target of 170,000 tonnes next year. Cotontchad officials said the south's 400,000 growers had resisted "intimidation," and had benefitted as a result. They had been paid a total of 12 billion CFA francs (30 million dollars) for their crop, 25 per cent more than the government's budget receipts. Next season the price paid to the grower will rise from 80 to 100 CFA francs (20 to 25 cents) a kilo, which Cotontchad estimates will encourage greater production.

[Passage indistinct] 1983-84 of 400 million (one million). "This is insignificant, and the last centres of resistance cannot stop our operations," officials said.

Frolinat Congress To Be Held 20-25 June

AB151140 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Text] Following a meeting held on Wednesday, 13 June, under President Habre's chairmanship, the FAN Command Council informs the Chadian people that an extraodinary congress of the Frolinat [Chadian National Liberation Front] will take place from 20 to 25 June 1984 in Ndjamena.

Libyan Withdrawal Proposals Termed 'Lies'

AB151230 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Station commentary]

[Summary] "In order to avoid the accusations of international public opinion and distract people's attention so as to become more firmly established in our country, Al-Qadhdhafi — it will be recalled — recently made a series of contradictory statements concerning the so-called proposed withdrawal of Libyan troops from Chad." "On the contrary, the reports reaching us from the national territory being occupied by the Libyan advocates of Negro slavery and their mercenary brothers indicate that Libya continues to change northern Chad into a veritable fortress." To say that Libya is going to withdraw its troops from Chad amounts to total ignorance of the personality of Al-Qadhdhafi, the man who has sworn to make Chad a natural extension of Libya.

"By his recent declaration that Libya was prepared to withdraw its troops from Chad, Al-Qadhdhafi was looking for a way out in the face of the presence of the French troops stationed in Chad and of the determination of the Chadian National Armed Forces to cross swords with the international terrorist leader. This is the only purpose of all these Libyan attempts. Al-Qadhdhafi has never had the least intention of leaving Chad. The only purpose of his contradictory statements is to test how far his lies will be accepted by international public opinion and especially Chadian public opinion."

"Al-Qadhdhafi may rest assured that Chad has never been deceived, nor has its government or people. Chad has always believed that Libya is creating a diversion aimed at enabling it to hit harder. Its main desire now is to obtain the departure of the French forces of 'Operation Manta' in order to be in a better position to annex Chad. How could it be otherwise when the Chadian Government has damning evidence which removes all doubts as to the determination of the colonel in Tripoli to impose slavery in Chad through the use of arms?"

Al-Qadhdhafi is continuing to strengthen Libyan forces in the part of Chad occupied by his troops. "In the front line, that is notably at Fada and Faya, the Islamic Legion has taken a position while planes are trying every day to violate the famous 16th parallel. The second line is represented by localities such as Gouro and Iningwa where reserve manpower and equipment have been concentrated. A plane very recently unloaded arms and ammunition as well as food at Iningwa."

"In these conditions, can one talk about any withdrawal of Libyan troops?" There is no doubt that Al-Qadhdhafi is looking for the easist way of establishing himself more firmly in Chad. His declarations are only aimed at deceiving the vigilance of public opinion. "The terrorist colonel has many tricks in his bag."

CONGO

Development Aid Agreements Signed With France

AB152012 Dakar PANA in French 1720 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Brazzaville, 15 Jun (ACI/PANA) — Under seven financial conventions signed on Thursday in the Congolese capital, France will grant an estimated 980 million CFA francs to Congo. Under the most important of these conventions, 225 million CFA francs will constitute France's participation in the realignment of the Congo-Ocean railroad scheduled to be completed in May or June 1985. The other conventions provide for an increase, at cost of 192.5 million CFA francs, in the corn flour production capacity of the Mantsoumba agroindustrial complex and the construction at a cost of 125 million CFA of three pilot villages at Mindouli in the Pool region. These pilot villages will serve as models in the promotion of community life in rural areas. The 1982-86 5-year development plan has provided for the construction of 158 pilot villages. Under another convention, 125 million CFA francs will be used for the promotion of light mechanization in rural areas. France will also provide funds for the Congolese paper pulp project (100 million CFA francs) and for the preliminary feasibility study for the offshore exploitation of phosphates (112.5 million CFA francs).

ZAIRE

Toasts Exchanged at Dinner for Zambian Delegation

AB151616 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1250 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 14 Jun (AZAP) — Citizen Kititwa Tumansi, first deputy chairman of the MPR Central Committee Bureau, on Wednesday at the Restaurant du Zoo hosted a dinner for a delegation of the United National Independence Party [UNIP] of Zambia currently on an official visit to Zaire. In a toast, the first deputy chairman of the MPR Central Committee Bureau praised the bonds that unite the Zambian and Zairian peoples, bonds that have been translated into the creation of two joint commissions within which all issues of common interest are discussed.

The Zambian delegation's visit, which comes at a very important time in the life of Zaire, when militants of the party-state are going to renew their confidence in the father of the Zairian nation, shows the desire for a common life in peace and unity, as advocated by the two heads of state Kaunda and Mobutu, Citizen Kititwa stated. Citizen Kititwa then paid tribute to the two heads of state under whose leadership progress, of which the two peoples can be proud, has been achieved. The first deputy chairman of the MPR Central Committee Bureau said he is convinced that this visit will begin a dynamic cooperation between the MPR and the UNIP and hopes to see the links between the two people further strengthened and enrichened.

In reply, Mr Mulemba, secretary general of the UNIP, thanked the Zairian authorities for the warm reception accorded him and members of his delegation and expressed his pleasure at the atmosphere of detente and cooperation between the two countries. He also recalled the need for Africa to become further united in order to better resist the various machinations and all the political and economic destabilization attempts. In conclusion, Mr Mulemba expressed the hope that the already cordial relations of cooperation between the two countries would be further strengthened by the common exploitation of their natural resources for their self-sufficiency. He is in favor of regular exchange of ideas and visits and permanent consultations between high-ranking political personalities from Zaire and Zambia.

CAR Minister Brings Message for Mobutu

AB152022 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1815 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Kinshasa, 15 Jun (AZAP) — A message from General Andre Kolingba, president of the Central African Republic, to Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, was conveyed on Friday morning to the first state commissioner, Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo by CAR Minister of Commerce and Industry Captain Luc Nganafei. This message is sign of the brotherhood and friendliness between Zaire and the CAR, two brother states, Luc Nganafei told the press after his meeting with Citizen Kengo Wa Dondo at the Executive Council headquarters in the presence of Citizen Pay-Pay Wa Syakasige, state commissioner for national economy, industry and external trade; Citizen Lengema Dulia, secretary of state for international cooperation; and the CAR ambassador to Zaire, Justin Salamante. During his stay in Kinshasa, the CAR minister visited Zairian economic projects with a view to increasing trade between the two countries. The CAR is mainly interested in importing raw materials for its industry from Zaire, mainly palm oil and cement. According to the CAR minister of commerce and industry, negotiations are under way for Zaire to import unspecified finished products from the CAR.

GUINEA

President Receives Departing French Envoy, Others

AB142131 Conakry Domestic Service in French 1945 GMT 14 Jun 84

[Excerpts] The president of the republic, Colonel Lansana Conte today received His Excellency Robert Tara, Archbishop of Conakry, accompanied by his vicar, Father Ontre. After that meeting, the president of the republic, Col Lansana Conte received His Excellency Yvon Omnes, French ambassador to Conakry, who having been recalled by his government after 5 year's service in Guinea, went to take leave of the Guinean head of state and government. The French diplomat expressed satisfaction with the particular attention he always received and also with the personal experience he gained, during his stay in Guinea. Next, Yvon Omnes praised the advent of the second republic which has opened new avenues for cooperation between France and Guinea. The exchange of several missions between Paris and Conakry is proof of the positive attitude of the French authorities to the historical event of 3 April 1984.

The head of state, Col Lansana Conte, praised the French diplomat for his political and social action in Guinea, and expressed satisfaction with cooperation between France and Guinea. You must make sure, the president of the republic concluded, that you convey to President Francois Mitterrand the proof of our government's satisfaction with your well-Accomplished mission.

The other meeting that the president of the republic had was with Petru Despot, ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to Guinea. The Romanian diplomat delivered a personal goodwill and friendly message from His Excellency President Nicolae Ceausescu to his Guinean counterpart, Col Lansana Conte. On that occasion the Romanian diplomat said he was convinced that the broadening and consolidation of the relations of cooperation and friendship between Bucharest and Conakry would continue. Petru Despot conveyed to the president of the republic President Ceausescu's invitation to our government to send a delegation to participate in the forthcoming celebrations of the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Romania.

The head of state, Col Lansana Conte, said he was very touched by the sign of friendliness which is proof of the desire of the two countries and peoples to strengthen their bilateral relations. The head of state accepted President Ceausescu's invitation to the Guinean government to send a delegation to participate in activities marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Romania.

Fianlly, the president of the Republic received the Beninese ambassador to Guinea. According to a press communique issued by the presidency, the head of state and the Beninese diplomat held talks on relations between Guinea and Benin and expressed their desire to further develop their relations, which are already fruitful.

LIBERIA

Technical Cooperation Agreement Signed With PRC

AB152217 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpts] A technical cooperation agreement for two of the Kpatawi agricultural projects was signed between the governments of the People's Republic of China and Liberia at the Ministry of Agriculture in Monrovia today. Agriculture Minister Joseph Baokai signed for the Liberian Government while the economic counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Monrovia, Mr (Wang Chun Ly), signed for his government.

During the ceremony Mr (Wang Ly) recalled relations existing between Liberia and China, and said that with joint efforts of the government of the and people of both countries the Kpatawi projects will continue to achieve fruitful results. Mr (Wang Ly) expressed appreciation to Minister Baokai for his continued support and assistance to the projects.

For his part, Minister Baokai expressed satisfaction over the achievement of the first phase of the projects and noted that government was appreciative of the technical cooperation between Liberia and China.

Under the terms of agreement, the Chinese Government will provide six technical and managerial personnel, while the cost of production of management of the project will be born by the Liberian Government.

Kountche Receives Chadian Opposition Leader

AB151318 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The chairman of the Supreme Military Council and head of state, President Seyni Kountche, this morning received Colonel Kamougue, vice president of the Chadian Transitional National Union Government which is headed by Goukouni Oueddei. After the audience, Col Kamougue explained the subject of his talks with President Kountche:

[Begin recording] I would first like to take this opportunity to convery to the brotherly people of Niger the greetings of the war-torn people of Chad. I have been received by General Seyni Kountche. As you can guess, we examined the Chadian problem. As the press must have reported, I have already visited a number of capitals and it was quite natural for me to visit Niger with which Chad shares a long border, along which the peoples of the two countries are interspersed. Being our neighbor, Niger has certainly shown concern about the Chadian problem. Also, both Niger and Chad are members of certain regional organizations such as the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Niger Basin Authority, the permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, and so on. Since Niger is concerned about the settlement of the Chadian problem, it was quite normal for us to come here in order to examine it with President Kountche and explain to him our approach toward the peaceful settlement of the Chadian crisis. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Tribunal Upholds False Accusation Decree

AB160840 Lagos NAN in English 1700 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Lagos, June 15 (NAN) — The chairman of the public officers (protection against false accusation) tribunal, Mr. Justice Joshua Ayinde, today in Lagos ruled that the tribunal had no jurisdiction to inquire into the validity or otherwise of Decree No 4. The ruling followed the premilinary objection by Chief Rotimi Williams, counsel for the two *GUARDIAN* newspaper journalists, Tunde Thompson and Aduka Irabor, on the grounds that the charges against his clients, as contained in section 1 (1) of the decree, were defective and did not constitute an offence.

Mr. Justice Ayinde upheld the submission of the minister of justice and attorney-general, Mr. Chike Ofodile, that the tribunal was bound to accept the decreee as it found it. He said that the proper forum for challenging the validity of the decree should have been the high court and not the tribunal. The tribunal, he said, was expected to do its job within the framework of the decree, adding that it had no room for any objections. He said that if the decree was defective as submitted by Chief Williams, the Federal Military Government, which promulgated it, was competent to rectify the faults.

Following the rulings, the two journalists pleaded not guilty to the three-count charge preferred against them under Decree No 4.

The stories for which the two journalists have been brought before the tribunal were titled "11 Missions Abroad To Be Closed," "Eight Military Chiefs Tipped as Ambassadors" and "Haruna Replaces Hananiya as UK Envoy."

Thompson is facing all the three charges while Aduka Irabor is jointly charged with Thompson on two of the charges.

The tribunal later adjourned sitting till Monday to enable the prosectution to prepare its case.

Catholic Bishops Urge Religious Freedom in Sudan

AB150905 Lagos NAN in English 0755 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Lagos, Jun 14 (NAN) — Catholic bishops in Nigeria have condemned what they called "the imposition of the religious tenet of one group of people on all citizens" in Sudan. In a statement issued in Lagos yesterday, the bishops urged the president and Government of Sudan to uphold fundamental human rights and freedom of worship. The bishops said that to forbid the use of wine, necessary for the Christian worship, was to deprive people of freedom of worship, adding that it was wrong to deprive everyone the use of wine, providing the use was reasonable. The bishops were reacting to the case of a Catholic priest who was reported to have been punished by the Sudanese Government for possessing one or more bottles of wine. The statement was jointly signed by Cardinal Dominic Ekandem, Archbishop Anthony Okogie, Archbishop Francis Arinze and Archbishop Peter Jatau.

Commentary Warns of Rising Border Tension

AB181130 Lagos International Service in English 0930 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Viewpoint]

[Text] About 3 years ago, the Nigerian Government was under preasure to go into military confrontation with Cameroon over a border incident. That dangerous situation was provoked by the killing of five Nigerian security men in the border area by Cameroon's gendarmes. The possibility of war was averted by the tremendous amount of restraint demonstrated by Nigeria and her dogged adherence to the OAU principle of solving interstate problems through peaceful means. after exchange of visits by delegates from the two countries, Nigeria and Cameroon reached an understanding to prevent the recurrence of the incident. Since then, there has been comparative calm.

But it is surprising to learn that recently Nigerians have again been subjected to attacks in the southern borders of the two countries, which was the scene of the earlier incident. The situation was so serious that the military governor of Nigeria's Cross River state, sharing a border with Cameroon, had to cry out. The more worrisome aspect of it all was that the Nigerians were only carrying out their normal day activity on their own side of the border when they were attacked by elements from across the border.

It has been emphasized time and again that only practical demonstrations of goodwill by neighboring states can prevent occurence of border incidents. It was in keeping with the desire for peaceful coexistence that the present military administration in Nigeria had dispatched two goodwill delegations to the Republic of Cameroon. With this gesture of goodwill, it was expected that the authorities of the two countries would take all measures to maintain calm on the border.

It is unfortunate that Cameroonians have given Nigerians new cause for anxiety. All the same, Nigeran and Cameroon's authorities have no other choice than to take appropriate precautionary steps against border stir-ups. Right now, Africa cannot afford to increase its problems with more interstate tension. Individual countries on the continent have a duty to cooperate with the OAU by adopting deliberate policies which will reduce areas of conflict. It is only then that the continent will be able to face its economic problems and the challenge posed by racism and colonialism in the southern flanks. This is what should condition the attitude of Cameroon to her relations with her neighbors. Since the military government in Nigeria has offered the gesture of goodwill, Nigerians expect the Government of Cameroon to ensure that its own people appreciate the gesture by not provoking border incidents.

Armed Robbers Attack Egyptian Embassy in Lagos

AB151808 Paris AFP in French 1650 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Lagos, 15 June (AFP) — The Egyptian Embassy in Lagos was attacked by armed robbers on Thursday, it was learned from a diplomatic source in the Nigerian capital. The Nigerian press reported on Friday that on the pretext of asking for visas, three armed robbers presented themselves in the consular section of the embassy. They then held up firearms and were handed more than 10,000 naira ($13,000) watches, and other items belonging to embassy personal and visitors. According to the independent daily *THE GUARDIAN*, the attack lasted almost an hour. Quoting an Egyptian diplomat, *THE GUARDIAN* reports that the embassy had unsuccessfully requested the Nigerian minister of foreign affairs to ensure protection by security guards in compliance with reciprocal agreements. The councellor cited by the paper says he was personally the victim of armed robbers last Saturday at Victoria Island, one of the residential areas of the Nigerian capital. The Egyptian Embassy, located in the Ikoyi area, is a few hundred meters away from the government headquarters and very close to several police stations.

TOGO

President Receives Malian Foreign Minister

AB151625 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, this morning received Malian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Alioune Blondin Beye. Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Akakpo-Ahianyo was present at the audience. After his talk with the head of state, Mr Beye made the following statement to the press:

[Begin recording] I have just been received by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Togo, to whom I had the privilege of conveying a friendly and fraternal message from his brother and friend the president of the Republic of Mali, General Moussa Traore. I would like once again to thank the president of the Republic of Togo for the privilege he granted me. You have seen that the audience was extremely long, which is a great satisfaction for me. I know that this is the demonstration of his friendship toward the Malian people and their leader, President Moussa Traore. Also, I would like to point out that the president returned just last night from a visit to a friendly country and one of the first audiences he granted was to me in my capacity as bearer of a message from President Moussa Traore. This is a show of friendship toward the Malian people.

You know that my visit to Togo falls within the framework of efforts to carry out the instructions of the two heads of state agreed on for (?many years) and reiterated in Conakry, namely their desire to see their foreign ministers take immediate measures for the setting up of a grand joint commission for cooperation between Mali and Togo. I can now tell you that this has been done. One of the purposes of my audience was to brief the president on the talks which I held with my brother and friend, the Togolese minister of foreign affairs. We have finalized a protocol which we have initialled and which we will submit to our respective heads of state for approval. This will make it possible to estalish an exemplary cooperation between Mali and Togo because we cannot achieve South-South cooperation, which we feel is the only alternative to the deadlocked North-South dialogue, without taking a number of measures.

There are no problems between Mali and Togo. No clouds hang over our cooperation. We must, however, better reorganize our perfect understanding. The grand joint commission for cooperation, which is a working tool, the ideal frameowrk for bilateral cooperation, is necessary for us to have a thorough and more rational grasp of all our problems of development, trade, transports, communications, and so onn. That was the first subject of my talk with the head of state. My brother and I succeeded in briefing the head of state.

Also, I conveyed President Moussa Traore's message of friendship and fraternity to the head of state, and the thanks, of Mali and its leader to President Eyadema for his personal action toward Mali's admission to the West African Monetary Union. This admission has become effective and will only strengthen the ties among the member countries of this grouping, which is the only means through which African can achieve a community.

Lastly, I conveyed to the head of state a message on the crises within the OAU such as Chad, Western Sahara, and so on. These problems are a constant source of concern to our leaders who find it necessary to hold permanent consultations on these problems with the view to overcoming them and making the continental organization the irreplaceable and priviledged tool it has always been. This will enable Africa to continue to overcome all the challenges facing it now, especially the economic challenges. Naturally, the message also dealt with the situation in southern Africa. I will keep in mind all the answers that President Eyadema asked me to convey to his brother. [end recording]

Debt Rescheduled; 'Ready for Economic Recovery'

AB180850 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 18 Jun 84

[Text] Lome, June 18 (AFP)—After 18 months of austerity Togo is ready for economic recovery, even though its foreign debt is still the biggest single drain on the national budget, according to observers. The nationalisation in 1974 of phosphate mines, which provide the west African country's chief source of wealth, coupled with a steep but short-lived rise in phosphate prices, led Togo to undertake a massive industrialisation programme which the government now admits was a failure.

The country borrowed heavily abroad to finance industrial projects, many of which have since been forced to close, especially in oil refining and the steel industry. Its debt now totals 314 billion CFA francs (785 million dollars), while the gross national product of its population of three million is put at 280 billion CFA francs (700 million dollars). Following the rescheduling of the debt obtained earlier this month, Togo will only have to pay back 26 billion CFA francs (65 million dollars) in capital and interest this year instead of 55 billion CFA francs (138 million dollars).

But even this reduced sum represents around a third of the total budget, which stands at 77 billion francs (193 million dollars) for the current year.

The rescheduling, over 10 years with a five-year grace period, was accepted by the 11 creditor countries that make up the Club of Paris because of the "recovery efforts undertaken by the Togolese Government."

These measures were encouraged and closely watched by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Incomes have been frozen since January 1983 and a five per cent "solidarity tax" has been imposed on higher-paid workers. Recruitment to the civil service and the public sector, which employ a total of 40,000 people, has been halted. Public sector wages have been brought into line with civil service pay and this has meant a 50 percent pay cut for some employees.

State investment has been cut to the bare minimum, with only [words indistinct] CFA francs (8.75 million dollars) being spent on development projects in 1984 compared to 400 billion CFA francs (one billion dolars) two years ago. Tax reforms should bring 10 to 15 per cent more into the state coffers.

One expert thought these harsh measures were "a bitter pill to swallow," especially after a number of euphoric years when everyone thought the economy was about to take off.

An added difficulty is that trade has decreased since the closure of the Ghanaian border in September 1982 and the military coup in neighbouring Nigeria last December which led to a crackdown on smuggling. The border with Nigeria has been closed since late April, though the Ghanaian border has just reopened.

However, economists say that Togo has considerable assets that should help it back on its feet once the industrial sector is put in order. Agriculture is doing well and Togo has become one of the few African nations able to produce almost all its own food. Cocoa and cotton exports are increasing despite serious drought in 1982 and 1983, although slightly less coffee was produced. This year's harvest should be a good one because there has been plenty of regular rainful this season. Phosphate prices are rising again and should allow 2.5 million tonnes to be exported this year compared with only two million last year.

UPPER VOLTA

Communique Issued After Togo President's Visit

AB151155 Lome Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Final communique issued in Ouagadougou on 14 June 1984 following Togolese President General Gnassingbe Eyadema's visit to Upper Volta — read by Upper Voltan Interior and Security Minister Ernest Ouedraogo, representing the minister of foreign affairs]

[Text] At the invitation of Comrade President Captain Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution [CNR], His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally [RPT] and president of the Republic of Togo, paid a working and friendly visit to Upper Volta on 14 June 1984. President Gnassingbe Eyadema and the important delegation accompanying him received a fraternal and warm welcome from the Upper Voltan people. In addition, this welcome was heightened by the presence of a large contingent of the Togolese community.

During the discussions, which were held in an atmosphere of fraternity, friendship, and mutual understanding, the two heads of state expressed their satisfaction with the excellence of the fraternal relations which have always united their two peoples and which were founded on goodneighborliness and cooperation. The two heads of state discussed bilateral relations and devoted most of ther time to an exchange of views on the economic and political situation in Africa, the Middle East, and the rest of the world. The two delegations expressed satisfaction with the perfect identity of their views during the discussions. On bilateral relations, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the excellence of the fraternal, friendly, and harmonious relations existing between the two peoples, who are linked by strong geographical, historical and socio-economic bonds. On this issue, they have resolutely decided to do everything possible to strengthen the bonds of goodneighborliness and cooperation between the two countries. They expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the first session of the grand Togo-Upper Volta Joint Cooperation Commission which took place in Lome from 12 to 14 April 1984, and they have decided to see to its implementation.

They have agreed to lay special emphasis on active cooperation in the fields of transportation, trade, industry, and rural development. The two presidents expressed their agreement on the supply of cement to Upper Volta by Togo in accordance with the need expressed by the Upper Voltan side. Presidents Eyadema and Sankara have instructed the ministers in charge of the various departments in the two countries to arrange periodic meetings.

On the subregional level, the two heads of state renewed their support for the objectives of ECOWAS, the Entente Council, and the West African Monetary Union for the well-being of all the member countries. They stressed the great need for doing everything possible to increase the democratic functioning of these organizations in strict respect of the sovereignty of the member states and their mutual interests. Presidents Eyadema and d their mutual interests. Presidents Eyadema and emphasis on Africa's problems and those of other developing regions. In the face of the incessant deterioration in the international economic situation and of the world crisis which is affecting African and other developing countries in particular, they reaffirmed the need to establish a new and more just and more equitable international economic order in which the selfishness of the industrialized countries will give way to solidarity between the north and the south. In this regard, they expressed the hope that comprehensive negotiations will finally be held between developed and developing countries within the framework of the UN General Assembly.

They also called for a happy outcome of the current negotiations going on between the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the EEC toward concluding the third Lome convention which, like the previous two conventions, will constitute a model of North-South cooperation. In addition, the two heads of state agreed that the intensification of economic and technical cooperation between developing countries will help to alleviate the bad effects of the crises on the Third World which must, first of all, rely on its own strength.

Concerning African political issues, the two heads of state expressed the attachment of their countries to the ideals and principles of the OAU and their commitment to promote relations of friendship, cooperation, and understanding among peace and justice-loving countries. To this effect, they energetically condemned all attempts at destabilization and insisted on the need to create and to preserve conditions of peace and security, which are indispensable for the harmonious development of states.

The two heads of state also launched a strong appeal to all interested African countries to join the Inter-African Moving Pictures Distribution Consortium, and if possible to give adequate assistance to African film makers, especially in the fields of production and distribution.

Examining the situation in Chad, the two heads of state condemned the aggravation of this fratricidal conflict and reaffirmed their fraternal solidarity with the Chadian people who are going through a difficult period of their history. The two heads of state support the efforts being made under the auspices of the OAU in order to restore peace and security to this country.

Touching on the issue of Western Sahara, the two heads of state, while appreciating the efforts of the international community, especially the OAU, toward the implementation of the right to self-determination of the Western Saharan people, expressed their great concern for the situation created by the nonimplementation of Resolution AH-G 34 of the 18th OAU summit, which calls for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front in order to implement the various Addis Ababa peace processes. They remain convinced that only the full application of this resolution can lead to the finding of a just and lasting solution to this conflict, which has been threatening the peace and security of the subregion and which runs the risk of compromising the unity of the continent. To this effect, they reaffirmed their firm support for the just cause of the SDAR.

Concerning the situation in southern Africa, the two heads of state stressed their attachment to the respect and application of the pertinent resolutions of the United Nations, notably Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. They reaffirmed their rejection of all attempts aimed at circumventing this resolution and at linking Namibia's independence with the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola, and also reaffirmed their total support for SWAPO, the only authentic representative of the Namibian people.

The two heads of state condemned the inhuman apartheid policy and reaffirmed their unflinching support for the people of South Africa, who are fighting for their right to liberty and well-being under the leadership of their authentic representative, the ANC.

The two heads of state also expressed solidarity and support for the frontline states for their efforts toward the establishment of peace in this region of the continent.

Concerning the Middle East crisis, the two heads of state expressed their deep concern over the extremely serious situation prevailing there, and expressed hope that the concerned sides will do everything possible to quickly arrive at a peaceful solution.

The two heads of state also expressed their attachment to the fundamental principles of nonalignment, which must help the countries of the Third World consolidate their national independence and make positive contributions to the maintenance of peace and international security. The two heads of state have decided to increase their contacts and exchanges at all levels in order to foster a harmonious development of the fraternal bonds of cooperation existing between the two countries.

At the end of his visit to the Republic of Upper Volta, His Excellency Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema expressed his sincere thanks to his brother friend, President Thomas Sankara, the CNR, the government and all the Upper Voltan people for the African hospitality accorded him and his delegation during their stay.

Present at the discussions on the Togolese side were: Anani Kuma Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the RPT Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation; Barry Moussa Barque, member of the RPT Political Bureau and minister of public works, mines, energy, and hydraulic resources; Kpahi Djalla, member of the RPT Central Committee and minister of commerce and transport; Yao Kunale Eklo, administrative secretary of the RPT; and Lieutenant Attie, commander of the National Gendarmeire.

On the Upper Voltan side: Comrade Nongma Ernest Ouedraogo, minister of interior and security, representing the minister of foreign affairs; Philippe Ouedraogo, minister of equipment and communications; and Boubacar Hama, minister of trade, industrial development, and mines.

Signed for the Republic of Togo by Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the republic; and for the Republic of Upper Volta by Capt Thomas Sankara, chairman of the CNR and head of state.

Paris Interviews Compaore on Execution of Coupists

LD151553 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Excerpt] Upper Volta's second ranking leader, Captain Compaore, has been in Paris since yesterday evening on a first visit. This visit has been planned for some time but it is now taking place after the execution of seven people of Ouagadougou who were involved in the 28 May plot. These were the first political executions ever to take place in Upper Volta. Interviewed on this subject this morning, Captain Compaore justified the executions by the danger posed by reactionary violence, as he called it.

[Begin recording] [Compaore] If [words indistinct] these executions (?have taken place), it is because the contradiction between the people and their enemies reached such a level. Reactionary violence was on the agenda and it had to be countered by revolutionary violence. This is the reason, I think, we reached such a state.

[Journalist Bernard Mageotte] But your regime had accustomed us to a less violent justice. In fact, you had the choice between a court martial or a people's tribunal.

[Compaore] Indeed, we have created tribunals for the revolution which, as we have often said, (?introduce legal proceedings). The culprits, generally, [word indistinct] to explain oneself but above all to educate onself with the masses [sentence as heard]. We have gone beyond that stage with the plotters. They gave us details of what they were planning and also all the deals made — be it with neighboring countries or even with eminent Professor (Kiserbo) twice in Dakar — once in a church, and once in a restaurant. So, there were many elements to these issues, and I think there are no doubts about this. They even (?wrote) to ask for the presidential pardon, later on, with all the elements of their plans. [end recording]

[Mageotte] Captian Campaore also justifies these severe verdicts by pressure from the Revolutionary Defense Committees [RDC] who were asking for examplary sanctions. Is not there a risk to the regime of being overpowered by the RDC for the regime? Here is the captain's answer to this question:

[Begin recording] No, we do not think so because we apply democratic centralism, that is, the grassroots level many criticisms and suggestsions at us, but it is the top, the leadership, which decides and the grassroots have to submit. So I do not see to what extent we could be overpowered by the RDC's. [end recording]

[Mageotte] On the day after the denunciation of the plot, the Voltan authorities summoned the French ambassador to Ouagadougou as well as the U.S. ambassador. This led one to believe that the authorities implied that France had interfered in this affair. The captain was very clear on this:

[Begin recording] Following the results of the investigation and the elements supplied to us by the investigation, those who made contact with Professor (Kiserbo) in Dakar were given assurances that they could obtain help from France and Israel, for example. So, in such circumstances, it was a friendly gesture on our part to say so to france. I think that is what it was all about. But, there has never been any question of participation by France in this plot, this coup attempt.

[Mageotte] Do you not think that these accusations may spoil relations with Paris?

[Compaore] We think that frank and direct relations with our partners are the best, at least to strengthen cooperation between our two countries instead of beating about the bush and avoiding issues. We think we have to go and tell our partners directly what we think and so we have to our enemies, besides. [end recording]

The French minister of cooperation has already said that he will let his partners in talks know that France had nothing to do with this affair and that it is concerned with maintaining cooperation with Upper Volta in the Franco-Voltan framework and within certain rules, such as mutual respect and independence. One of the main topics to be discussed at the meetings will be that of the renegotiation — which is underway — of the cooperation protocol which has linked the two countries for more than 10 years. In this respect, working sessions have already taken place in the two capitals and progress has been noted.

Finally, it should be noted that the Socialist Party will not receive the Voltan captain, who, however, expressed the wish to do so. The SP, so far, has not given any explanation for this decision.

ANGOLA

Envoy Discusses Border Security With Congolese

MB150934 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Jose Agostinho Neto, Angola's ambassador accredited to the People's Republic of Congo, met Francois Xavier Katali, Congolese minister of interior, yesterday to discuss issues relating to security on the Cabinda border. The meeting is part of the consultations that Jose Agostinho Neto is currently undertaking with various members of the Government of the People's Republic of Congo and the Congolese Workers Party in the context of the relations of friendship and bilateral cooperation.

ANGOP Disputes Accuracy of 'Puppets' Communiques

MB151630 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] [Passage indistinct] the puppets, already on their way to asphyxiation, are fabricating war communiques claiming victories which cannot even deceive the least attentive observer. It is curious but not astonishing, the ANGOP commentary continued, to note that such communiques always find their needed support in the Western sensationalist press where they are first handed. However, the facts on the battlefield speak for themselves. They demonstrate the defeat suffered by the puppets who try to justify their inflated communiques with less grandiose but highly terrorist acts, such as attacks on defenseless civilians. ANGOP also pointed out that the Western press was aware of this reality but for obvious reasons it decided to opt for sensationalism by defending a lost cause and giving an undue coverage to the puppets in their criminal acts.

President dos Santos Visits Namibe Province

MB151545 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has been in Namibe Province since yesterday for a working visit to that southern region after visiting the provinces of Huila and Cunene.

Yesterday, after a meeting with the Executive Commission of the Namibe Province party committee, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the delegation accompanying him toured some production units in Namibe town. The first place to be toured by the supreme leader of the party and nation was the gas plant of the National Fuels Company of Angola, which is nearing completion with a capacity of 100 cubic meters of butane gas. Subsequently, the Angolan head of state toured some fishing production units, namely the Somar enterprise, and the fish freezing factory, with a monthly production of 300 metric tons of fish, as well as the Boa Vista and Barreiras salt production units, where he familiarized himself with their functions and problems.

Yesterday afternoon, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos made a lengthy inspection of the (Roremina) factory, which extracts granite and marble. At the factory, he reviewed an exhibition of the various kinds of marble which have been processed at the factory. During the inspection, the Angolan head of state was given a piece of marble that was produced at that production unit. According to the program of the presidential visit, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos was expected to attend a cultural meeting in Namibe town last night.

Returns to Luanda

MB160700 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] President Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos returned to Luanda yesterday after visiting the three southernmost provinces, namely Huila, Cunene, and Namibe. In Namibe, the last stop on his trip, the head of state presided over a mass rally in the capital of the province at which he declared that South Africa still has one or two battalions in Angolan territory despite having retreated about 40 kms south of Ngiva, the capital of Cunene Province. The president denounced South Africa for continuing to support the UNITA bandits, training them, financing them, and sending them now to Cuanda Cubango and Moxico Provinces with the aim of reaching Lunda Norte Province to prevent the exploitation of diamonds. The head of state said, however, that we have started on the road that will lead us to peace. We have not obtained it yet though, so we must be alert and use our weapons in defense of our country and revolution.

On the Namibian issue, the Angolan head of state said that South Africa has not yet pledged to grant independence to the Namibian people, but it must withdraw its troops from Angola and implement UN Security Council Resolution 435.

Speaking on the national situation, the president pointed out that the problems of Namibe Province are connected with factories and fishing, but that conditions exist to supply a large part of the country with fish.

BOTSWANA

Mogwe Comments on Security Talks With Mugabe

MB151257 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
1125 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Mr Archibald Mogwe, said Botswana has been caused some distress by allegations that the Botswana Defense Force [BDF] is itching for a fight with Zimbabwe. Mr Mogwe said this morning in an interview that Botswana was not aware that the BDF was itching for a fight and said that the government has done everything possible to develop closer cooperation between the BDF and the Zimbabwe National Army.

Mr Mogwe said that he went to see the Zimbabwean prime minister, Robert Mugabe, on Monday to seek clarification of allegations regarding security matters between Botswana and Zimbabwe. He said that he found tangible evidence of allegations against the BDF and that Prime Minister Robert Mugabe specifically named the Kalangas to substantiate the allegations.

Mr Mogwe said that it was unfortunate that international relations should be conducted through the news media. He said this on being asked why Zimbabwe did not approach Botswana directly. He said Botswana felt that such matters have to be discussed at an appropriate level. He said that the Zimbabwean prime minister will be coming to Botswana in July for the Southern African Development Coordination Conference summit in Gaborone and that it would be an additional opportunity for President Masire and Mr Mugabe to exchange views on security matters.

On the recent controversial tour of Europe by South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha, Mr Mogwe said that Botswana had always tried to plead with the friends of South Africa to persuade her to change her racist policies and to give the black majority of South Africa their rightful positions as citizens of their country of birth. He said if South Africa would be prepared to negotiate with the right leaders of the territory, Botswana could persuade the freedom fighters to lay down their arms and engage in discussions. He said Mr Botha's trip overseas was an opportunity for his friends to meet him face to face and have discussions with him.

LESOTHO

Archbishop Says Pope John Paul To Visit Soon

MB151041 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Pope John Paul II is to visit Lesotho. In a front-page report in the latest issue of the weekly Roman Catholic [word indistinct] paper *MOELETSI WA BASOTHO*, the head of the Catholic Church in Lesotho and archbishop of Maseru, the Most Reverand A.L. Morapeli, is quoted as saying the pope was pleased with the invitation to come to this country by the country's four Catholic bishops who visited the Holy See last month. During the visit the bishop requested the holy father to elevate the first Catholic missionary in Lesotho, Father (Joseph Gerrard), to the position of The Blessed One. The paper quoted the bishop as saying the pope is due in Lesotho in the near future. Father (Gerrard) arrived in Lesotho in 1862 and died at Roma in May 1914.

Methodist Clergyman Allowed To Enter Country

MB151422 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] The South African Methodist clergyman, the Reverend Dr Gabriel Setiloane of Kroonstad, who was barred from entering Lesotho on Wednesday night to attend the district synod of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in Maseru, was allowed to pass through the Maseru border post last night. Dr Setiloane, traveling on a Bophuthatswana travel document, was prevented from entering Lesotho by South African officials at the Maseru border post. The South African officials on Wednesday night told him that he could not travel on a passport issued by bantustan government if he had had a passport issued by the so-called central government in Pretoria withdrawn. The Reverend Setiloane had his passport withdrawn in 1979, and then he applied for an emergency passport to enable him to travel to Maseru to attend the present synod. Instead, he was told to apply for a Bophuthatswana passport because that was where he belonged.

Dr Setiloane said in Maseru today that he took up the matter at higher official level. It was only when the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria was informed of the matter that Pretoria instructed the South African border officials at the Maseru border post to allow him to pass through to Maseru.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Relieves Interior, Security Ministers

MB151913 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] We are now reading an important communique from the presidency of the republic: The president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Marshal Samora Moises Machel, in the framework of the powers granted to him by the constitution, issues the following presidential decree dated 15 June:

1. Minister of the Interior Lieutenant General Armando Emilio Guebuza is relieved of his duties;
2. Minister of Security Major General Mariano de Araujo Matsinhe is relieved of his duties;
3. Minister of Mineral Resources Jose Carlos Lobo is relieved of his duties.

The struggle continues. Maputo, 15 June 1984.

Abuses of Power Recalled

MB161204 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] President Samora Machel has removed three government ministers from their posts, according to a presidential communique released late last night. The statement announces the removal of the interior minister, Lieutenant General Armando Guebuza; the security minister, Major General Mariano Matsinhe; and the mineral resources minister, Jose Carlos Lobo. The interior and security ministers also hold party posts in the Frelimo Party's 11-member Political Bureau. Mr Lobo was formerly a representative at the UN headquarters in New York until he was appointed last year to a newly created Ministry of Mineral Resources. He is a member of the party Central Committee.

The presidential decrees signed in Maputo yesterday gave no reason for the removals. It will be recalled that President Samora on a recent working visit to Nampula Province reaffirmed the party's insistence that our security forces should operate within the strict limits of legaity. He reminded a public rally that the police are subjected to the political direction of the interior minister, and the security forces to that of the security minister.

While in Nampula, the president chaired a meeting of the Political Bureau which studied new tasks to be assigned to its members in the wake of last year's party congress. President Samora paid tribute to progress made in Sofala, Cabo Delgado, and Zambezia Provinces, which have been placed under the political direction of Political Bureau members.

The Frelimo Party's own program, "Voice of Frelimo," last week broadcast a commentary recalling the president's warning in November 1981 against infiltration in the defense and security forces. It said that illegal acts were a frontal assault on the party's political line and the principles on which the Mozambican people's state was founded. The commentary noted that there had recently been an increase in abuse of power.

At a rally in Maputo last month, President Samora highlighted cases of unjustified arrest, detention without trial, and the lack of respect for members of the public. He warned that he would hold ministers responsible for actions by members of their services.

Machel Reorganizes Ministries

MB151306 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Communique from the Presidency of the Republic, issued in Maputo on 16 June]

[Text] In accordance with the decisions adopted by the Fourth Frelimo Party Congress on 28 May 1983, a process of reorganizing the state apparatus was initiated to make it capable of meeting the demands of this phase of the Mozambican people's struggle against underdevelopment. The reorganization of the state apparatus requires the appointment of cadres to the tasks of state leadership and economic management, thus taking advantage of their experience and the skills that they have shown. To continue what has already been implemented in this field, Field Marshal Samora Moises Machel, the president of the republic, using the powers invested in him by the constitution, has issued presidential decrees dated 16 June which set out the following:

1. The creation of a Secretariat of State for War Veterans, integrated in the Ministry of National Defense;
2. The abolition of the State Secretariat for Coal and Hydrocarbons and the integration of its personnel and material and financial means, as well as the powers that had been assigned to it, into the Ministry of Mineral Resources;
3. The president of the republic has also decided to appoint Major General Mariano de Araujo Matsinhe as the leader of Niassa Province in his capacity as a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau, and to appoint:

Colonel Jose Oscar Monteiro, minister of the interior;
Colonel Sergio Vieira, minister of security;
Abdul Magid Osman, minister of mineral resources;
(Osman Nidato), minister of justice;
Jose Carlos Lobo, deputy foreign minister;
(Eneas da Conceicao Comisso), deputy minister of finance — he also retains his duties as chairman of the People's Development Bank;
Joao Carlos Beirao, deputy minister of education;
(Avelino Paulo Muhlanga), deputy minister of education;
Eduardo Arao, governor of Tete Province; and
Oswaldo Assahel Tazama, secretary of state of national defense for war veterans.

The struggle continues. Maputo, 16 June 1984.

Ten 'Bandits' Killed in Zambezia; 15 Surrender

MB170736 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0605 GMT 17 Jun 84

[From the Armed Forces "Voice of Combat" Program]

[Text] A total of 15 armed bandits surrendered to our forces in Guija district, Gaza Province, recently. The bandits surrendered following the destruction of a bandit camp on 2 June. In Gaza Province, our armed forces also freed 18 citizens during two assault operations carried out by the FPLM on two armed bandit groups. On 7 June, the FPLM attacked a group of bandits in the area of Macamula, Mocuba district, in Zambezia province, forcing them to flee after losing 10 of their bandit colleagues, whose bodies were left behind at the scene of the clash. At the same time, our forces in Tete Province killed two bandits and one witchdoctor in a clash.

SOUTH AFRICA

Thousands Converge on Soweto Church To Mark 1976

MB161030 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] Thousands of people are converging on Soweto's Regina Mundi Church to commemorate the 8th anniversary of the 1976 student uprising. The meeting at Regina Mundi is the focal point of commemoration services in Soweto, but other meetings have been planned in all parts of the country. Police and church leaders have appealed to those attending the meetings not to provoke police.

Police Stand Guard At Service

MB161250 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1133 GMT 16 Jun 84

[By Grant McCool]

[Text] Soweto, June 16, SAPA — more than 1,000 people filled the regina Mundi Church in Soweto today for a commemoration service on the eighth anniversary of the students' unrest amid a notable police presence. The chairman of the Soweto Committee of Ten, Dr N. Motlana, said the police presence was "imtimidating."

The provisional commissioner for Sowetan police, Brigadier D.J. Jacobs, said there was a larger police presence in the immediate vicinity of the church then there was last year "to prevent trouble."

Across the road from the church scores of policemen stood between official vehicles — including two which had sneeze machines attached. An armoured car and at least three other vehicles were parked in the parking area outside the church when the service began at noon.

Three armoured vehicles carrying a group of about 30 journalists, mostly foreign correspondents, pulled up into the parking area just as the service began.

"Since 1977 this has been our official parking area, and now we have these awful intimidating armoured vehicles," Dr Motlana said. "We hope the police want to observe the day as peacefully as we do," Dr Motlana added.

Organizers of the service, the Azanian Peoples Organisation and the United Democratic Front, said a large turnout was expected. Police have reported no incidents of crime related to the anniversary of the 1976 uprising.

Several Injured in Anniversary Incidents

MB170615 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] Several people have been injured in incidents related to the services to mark the 1976 Soweto student uprising. Four police officers and a journalist have been injured in stone- throwing incidents. The police were injured when about 80 youths pelted them with stones in the Eastern Cape town of Graaff Reinet. *SUNDAY TIMES* photographer (Horace Potter) was cut on the chin when a stone was thrown through his car window while on his way to cover 16 June Commemoration service at Soweto's Regina Mundi Church. Police used teargas to disperse about 400 people outside the church after the service which was attended by about 3,000 people.

One Injured in Johannesburg Bomb Blast

MB151621 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] A motorcar bomb went off in central Johannesburg just before 1300 this afternoon, causing damage running into thousands of rands. Two motorcars were destroyed, and at least 10 others damaged in the explosion. The bomb went off on the premises of a used-car dealer, and a black man was injured. It had apparently been planted in the engine of the motorcar. The injured man has been admitted to the Hillbrow hospital, where a spokesman has described his condition as quite serious. He sustained chest and leg injuries.

The bomb shattered windowpanes of buildings at the corner of Nugget and Commissioner Streets, and left shards of glass strewn over a vast area. Shortly after the explosion, police cordoned off the area and explosives experts combed the area for clues as to the kind of explosive used.

A short while ago, streets in the area were reopened to traffic, and the city traffic department says the traffic flow is back to normal.

Police, Black Leaders Urge Restraint

MB151643 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1636 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Johannesburg, June 15, SAPA — A man was seriously injured in a car bomb blast that rocked central Johannesburg this afternoon — the eve of the eighth anniversary of the June, 1976, riots. The victim, Mr Jimmy Matabane, was admitted to the General Hospital in Hillbrow with chest and leg injuries. A spokesman for the hospital said Mr Matabane was "fairly ill, but his condition has stabilised." He said Mr Matabane was "a young male," but would give no further details.

According to an eyewitness, Mr Matabane was walking past the Car and Boat Ranch, in Nugget Street — between Commissioner and Fox streets — when the bomb exploded in a Mazda sports car, parked in the sales lot, at 2:40 pm. Hundreds of people gathered at the scene after the blast, which shattered windows up to the fourth floor of nearby buildings.

A spokesman for the Car and Boat Ranch — who did not wish to be identified — told SAPA: "There were 10 staff in the office when the deafening roar occurred. We all took cover. None of the staff was injured. The entire building was shaking and we were badly frightened.

"The bomb went off in one of our cars. Five or six cars — valued at R60,000 — were damaged or destroyed," the spokesman said.

Traffic police kept hundreds of by-standers and the media from the scene of the blast with snarling dogs, and a *STAR* reporter, Etienne Rothbart, was mauled by one of the dogs. Several by-standers screamed as dogs were led up to the crowds, cutting them off from the cordoned off area which extended from Nugget to End, Commissioner, Fox, and Main streets. Traffic police set up barriers within minutes of the blast, and media representatives who had not been at the scene shortly after it occurred, were not allowed to get within two blocks of the Car and Boat Ranch.

It is understood that the traffic police kept the growds away from the scene for fear that second bomb might have been planted, timed to go off when crowds had been attracted by the first blast.

Lieutenant Chris Louw, who was at the scene of the explosion, said only that a black man had been injured and taken to hospital.

"The explosion occurred at 2:40 pm on the premises of a car lot. We don't know yet whether it was a bomb." He confirmed that other cars had been damaged by the blast.

Police and black leaders today issued calls for restraint as South Africa's black majority headed into the anniversary tomorrow of the 1976 riots that began in Soweto, near Johannesburg, and later flared across the country for almost a year. The Anglican Church has called on all Christians to observe tomorrow as a day of prayer and fasting.

Mr Lebamang Sebidi, a spokesman for the ministers who will preach at the Regina Mundi Church in Soweto, said in a statement: "While appealing for extreme restraint on the part of the police, I must also appeal to the public at the church and elsewhere in Soweto not to do anything unlawful."

The Soweto police commissioner, Brigadier D.J.D. Jacobs, said police would not interfere with church services, but if the law was broken, they would act.

A total of 575 people — all but a few of them black and mostly schoolchildren — died during the 1976 unrest in clashes with police.

This year, the anniversary is scheduled to begin tonight with an all-night vigil in Soweto, near Johannesburg. Church services have been planned in black townships around the country tomorrow and the mainly black National Professional Soccer League has refused to schedule games.

Blacks have often stayed away from work on June 16 to mark the anniversary, and buses and trains carrying black commuters who ignore the boycott have in previous years been stoned, but only sporadic violence has occurred on other anniversaries.

Rioting begain in 1976 over the government's plan to make Afrikaans — and not English — the official language at schools. The government revised the plan, but by then riots had spread and the issue became a more general one of inadequate black schooling.

Police yesterday dispersed a small group of chanting high school pupils who marched through the streets of Atterdigeville, near Pretoria, a police spokesman in the capital confirmed today. The students were apparently marching in protest against "30 years of Bantu education."

Police Investigating ANC Tie

MB160550 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The head of the Security Police, General Frans Steenkamp, says a limpet mine attached to the front wheel of a used car was responsible for yesterday's explosion in the center of Johannesburg. Two cars were completely destroyed and eight others damaged in the explosion. The name of the black man who was injured has also been released. He is Mr Jimmy Matabane, who is being treated in the Hillbrow Hospital for multiple injuries. The explosion occurred on the premises on a second-hand car dealer in Nugget Street between Comissioner and Fox Streets.

Gen Steenkamp said the bomb did not appear to be have been aimed at any specific target, but that police were investigating the possibility that the ANC was responsible. All the windows of the car dealer were shattered in the explosion. Windows in five other buildings in the area were also damaged. The police are still busy with their investigations at the scene of the blast.

Bomb Explodes at Bethal Magistrate's Court

MB170535 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 Jun 84

[Text] An unidentified black man was killed in an explosion at the magistrate's court at Bethal in the Eastern Transvaal last night. A police spokesman said the explosion took place at about 1800 in the evening. The cause of the blast has not been established, but eyewitnesses report seeing a black man carrying something on the premises shortly before the explosion occurred. The roof of the building was damaged and several windows shattered by the explosion but the police say the damage was only slight. There were apparently very few people in the area when the explosion occurred.

Lawyers Representing Kwangema Criticize Removal

MB151752 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1655 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Johannesburg, June 15, SAPA — Lawyers representing the Kwangema community in eastern Transvaal, which soon faces removal, today strongly criticised the Department of Cooperation and Development for its handling of the resettlement.

In a statement to SAPA, the firm said the department had refused to negotiate with the community or a representative it elected, but had chosen to negotiate with a man selected on ethnic grounds.

"The manner in which the Department of cooperation and Development is handling the resettlement of Kwangema community does not lend credibility to assurances given by the department that removals are preceded by negotiation," the lawyers said.

"The department has persistently refused to negotiate with the community or a representative of its choice. Instead, the department has seen fit to talk to a single person who the department claims is the head of the Ngema family on ethnological grounds.

"Selective dialogue with such a person does not constitute negotiation with the community," said the statement.

According to the lawyers, until February the department said that it would negotiate solely with Mr Gabriel Ngema, who recently died, on the grounds that he was the head of the Ngema family.

However, in 1982 both he and the commissioner of Wakkerstroom appointed a committee chaired by Mr Moses Ngema to assume the administrative role previously performed by Mr Gabriel Ngema.

"This appointment confirms the committee's contention that the Kwangema community has never been administered by a tribal authority.

"Indeed, it could not have been so administered because the community consisted of different ethnic groups.

"The department subsequently contended that Gabriel Ngema 'cancelled' the committee."

Mr Moses Ngema was given a mandate by the community in December last year to negotiate on its behalf and the department had been repeatedly told this, the statement said.

The department was asked to negotiate either with the community as a whole or with a representative chosen by the community.

"In the event of the department refusing to negotiate with the community as a whole, the department has been asked to convene a meeting of the community to determine by popular vote which person or body the community accepts to be its authorised representative."

Since the death of Mr Gabriel Ngema, the department decided, after consultation with his family, that Mr Gabriel Ngema's minor son is to be the successor.

Until he comes of age, his uncle, Mr Cotaberi Ngema, was to be acting head of the family. The department has stated that negotiations will in future be conducted with Mr Cuthbert Ngema alone, say the lawyers.

A letter was sent by the committee's attorneys to the minister of cooperation and development, Dr Piet Koornhof, last month saying it was clear that the government did not intend negotiating with Mr Moses Ngema. This was a departure from stated policy that removals would not take place without negotiation. Dr Koornhof's department had acknowledged receipt of the letter, but there had been no further reply.

The lawyers' statement quoted a government spokesman as saying recently: "We are not dealing with the people who say they are the elected representatives, as we could then find ourselves with problems." The lawyers added that negotiation was the only hope for a community facing resettlement. "It is the only opportunity to stall the dreaded day or, if the dreaded day cannot be stalled, to secure a better deal."

Regional Welfare, Security First Priorities

MB150958 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Conspicuous in the postmortems on the European tour of Prime Minister P.W. Botha is the wide consensus over what it reflects of South Africa's diplomatic situation in the world. The tour marked a significant shift in government attitudes on isolating this country. So much so that European leaders were speaking of their need to maintain a dialogue with it on issues of common concern. That is, of course, partly accounted for by its emergence as a regional power capable of fundamentally influencing the course of events in southern Africa. But it is also a consequence of the changed priorities in South Africa's own foreign policy, and of the events to which the change has given rise.

This country today is a regional power, not only in a military and economic sense, but especially also in its international orientation. A top priority now is to build close and cooperative relations with other African countries, and especially with those countries in its sphere of influence in southern Africa.

It is no longer a question of the road to the West running through Africa, so much as the contribution the West can make to the first goal, which is the establishment of a stable and cooperative dispensation in southern Africa. Such a regional dispensation is more important to South African security than being a paid up member of a loose knit Western alliance. But of course, if Western ties are improved as a result of rapproachment in the subcontinent, then it is a valuable bonus.

The policies of the Western nations towards South Africa are essentially opportunistic. Those policies are not primarily the function of the country's internal political and social arrangements. Had they been, as claimed, centrally concerned with those arrangements, the substantial reforms of the past few years would have made far more impact than they did. By and large, Western policies towards South Africa are formed by the desire to maintain reasonably friendly relations with African governments. That is based on economic, prestige, and security considerations, and not least on Africa's large voting block at the United Nations and in other forums.

Having come to accept that, South Africa's present rulers have reacted accordingly. Recognizing that the continental campaign against the country has more or less acquired a momentum of its own —sustained largely by an active radical group in the OAU — they have set out to expand the areas through which interstate relations are ultimately determined, mainly, economic, technological, and security cooperation. The obvious place to start was southern Africa. As the regional superpower, South Africa is best placed there to provide the means for stability and the kind of assistance on which a cooperative association may be based.

On that course a few breakthroughs have been made, and predictably, Western governments are resuming a dialogue with South Africa. That is good for both sides, but the dialogue is being pursued on a new basis. Those governments are now dealing with a state that is concerned first and foremost with the welfare and security of its own region. International considerations come some way behind that priority.

SWAZILAND

Former Finance Minister Interviewed

MB171051 Johannesburg SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 17 Jun 84 p 6

[By Martin Welz]

[Text] "Corruption divides the people between haves and have-nots, between people who can get things for their children and those who cannot and once the people are divided, there is trouble."

The speaker is Swaziland's former minister of finance, Dr Sishayi Nxumalo, who was sacked last week following his public announcement of a major customs fraud investigation which, he warned, could involve "people in high places."

His dismissal so shocked the South African Government that Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Pik Botha took time out of his European tour with the prime minister to voice concern about customs frauds which were being run from Swaziland.

This week Mr Nxumalo fleshed out the reasons for that concern. He told the *SUNDAY EXPRESS* in Mbabane.

"Corruption not only destroys the fabric of morality that holds a society together and makes it work. Allowed to run amok, it soon expands into areas of blackmail and fear."

"It also frightens off investors. Without them we are unable to create jobs. There are a lot of young men without jobs. Eventually they believe that without a stake in society, they have nothing to lose. That is what is worrying me," he said.

"The public has eyes to see. If as a national leader you have a large house and a big Mercedes, the public must know how you got them.

"In the older, traditional African society, to give a gift to a chief was not hidden. It was openly done for everyone to see and carried no stigma.

"But now all the hidden gifts and ways are destroying society."

Dr Nxumalo's tireless campaign against corruption was prompted by an incident in his youth.

"I had won a scholarship to attend a teacher's college in Lesotho, but six months into my course I was suddenly told I was 'too good' and well-enough qualified to return to teaching in Swaziland," he said.

"I then discovered that the flattery had been to cover the fact that my scholarship had been taken away so that it could be given to the son of a well-placed official in the Department of Education. I have hated coruption ever since."

Like so many other Swazi leaders, Dr Nxumalo's career started as a migrant labourer on the mines in Johannesburg.

In 1960, after two years on a Johannesburg mine, the turbulence of black politics in South Africa just prior to Sharpeville drove him back to Swaziland, where he started a school for the children of workers at a sugar mill.

His school met with opposition from the British administration in Mbabane.

"They reckoned education was superfluous for children who were to become cane cutters," he recalled this week.

Dr Nxumalo resigned and got himself a licence as a cattle dealer, a career which was so lucrative that he was able to finance three new schools.

But by then his interest had shifted to the cause of adult education. He founded the National Adult Education Institute which is today supported by the government and various international agencies.

"While involved in this social work I was increasingly harrassed by the political situation, also from Swazis employed in the colonial administration," he said.

"I could not have survived had the King not himself signed up in my institute. The British High Commissioner could do nothing else but to join as well."

The experience drove him into politics. He founded the Swazi Democratic Party, and he went to London for the first independence talks.

Then he traveled Africa in search of support, the older generation of African nationalists became his friends: Kaunda ("a Christian gentleman, an inspiration") Masire, Banda, Tubman, Kenyatta, Haile Selassie ("an institution bearing destiny on its shoulders"), Nkrumah.

In 1965 he agreed to dissolve his party and become the King's ambassador in Africa. In this capacity he signed the Lome agreement, and, together with Lesotho and Botswana, the customs agreement with South Africa.

"When we met in Pretoria to sign that agreement I acted as spokesman for the three black partners: Swaziland, Lesotho and Botswana. South Africa had proposed a joint monitoring body to ensure there would be no infringements. On behalf of the black countries I said no, we would give a solemn undertaking that we would ourselves ensure there were none.

"We wished to avoid the patronising situation where South Africa would be our policeman. I gave my solemn word.

"This is why I was so angry when in April I was informed that the South African customs authorities had discovered that customs frauds were being run from Swaziland. And why I was so determined to investigate the matter, no matter who it involved.

"My country's reputation was at stake," Dr Nxumalo said.

In the course of the investigation Prince Mfanasibili Dlamini, head of the Civil Service Commission, nephew of Sobhuza II and powerful member of Swaziland's Supreme Council, the Liqoqo, was found to be a share holder in one of the companies involved in the customs fraud.

Dr Nxumalo's popularity had clearly already started to wane in January when he issued a press statement announcing his intention to take a harder line on tax dodgers, "without fear or favour and regardless of who was embarrassed thereby." He warned that attempts to intimidate him or his staff would not succeed.

"Within days when I was driving home one night two cars forced me off the road. My car overturned and they left me for dead, unaware that i had fallen out of the car before it overturned," Dr Nxumalo said this week.

Police are still searching for the culprits.

Next he raised the matter of the auditor-general's report in parliament. "As it dealt with poor financial administration I considered it my job as minister of finance to warn of the dangers of laxity and corruption," he said.

One of the issues raised in the Auditor-Generals's report was the bankrupcy of Swazi Chemicals, a company that had raised R30-million in Swazi bank loans, together with a R5-million guarantee from the Swazi Government. Most of the money allegedly left Swaziland to establish subsidiaries in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

But certain members of the Liqoqo objected to the public debate of the Auditor-general's report. "Dr Nxumalo has blackened Swaziland's name to make personal political capital out of the issue," Dr George Msibi, leading members of the Liqoqo, said at a press conference this week. Dr Msibi was managing director of Swazi Chemicals.

Dr Nxumalo described last week's events that he believes spurred the Liqoqo into pressuring the prime minister to fire him, his colleague Mr Richard Dlamini, and the chiefs of the army and the police.

"The customs complaint from South Africa really stung me, because of my personal role in the agreement and because it could not have been done without the connivance of officials in my department.

"On Friday, without prior warning, I changed the customs staff at Matsapa airport. They immediately reported the arrival of a mysterious consignment of cheap textiles from India, destined for a non-existent company in Manzini.

"The consignment was worth about R250,000. Since duty on textiles is 100 percent, it could have meant a loss of an equivalent amount to the customs union. I ordered them to seize the consignment."

"That night I was fired."

Dr Nxumalo is a governor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and vice-chairman of the African Development Bank.

"Swaziland is not like some other African countries. I have been dismissed, but I am not in jail and I am free to talk to you. But foreign investors are inclined to equate us with other countries.

"We have our quarrels, but within weeks or months we could all be together again. I have no enemies. My motive is only to stop corruption.

"People who come here having done business in other African countries, particularly West Africa, invariably think we are the same. In my experience they think the only way to do business is to bribe someone. Even businessmen from the Asian countries think so, with the marked exception of Japan.

"The only reason I made the investigation public was because I feared I would be removed and the matter suppressed. If the matter is now fully investigated — and I believe it will be — then I am satisfied," he said.

What about the loss of his job? "It may be a blessing in disguise. Looking at what has happened to some of my colleagues in Africa, maybe it is just as well I took a break!" he said.

"Even if I achieve no more, in future people with dubious schemes will have to take into account that there might be another madman like me prepared to blow the lid on them."

Would he consider accepting political office again? "In Swaziland you do not ask for public office. You are summoned to take office. If you refuse, that could be interpreted as treason — It could be thought you are refusing because you have militant designs against the state."

ZAMBIA

Joint Commission With Burundi Begins Meeting

MB151015 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] Acting minister for the National Commission for Development Planning, Luke Mwananshiku, said individual national efforts are inadequate because they [words indistinct] problems facing Africa. Opening the Zambia-Burundi joint commission of cooperation at Mulungushi Hall yesterday, Mr Mwananshiku said national efforts at economic advancement should be supplemented by concerted efforts at regional and subregional levels. Mr Mwananshiku, who is minister of finance, said bilateral cooperation is a firm foundation for cooperation at regional and subregional levels. Speaking at the same event, Burundi Commerce and Industry Minister Albert Muganga said more efforts should be poured into cementing economic cooperation between the two countries. He said the agreements reached by the two states should be fully implemented, and if there are obstacles to the implementation, these should be cleared during the current meeting.

ZIMBABWE

Accord on Electricity Reached With Zambia

MB151200 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 15 Jun 84

[Text] It is reported from the Zambian capital, Lusaka, that Zimbabwe and Zambia have reached a long-term agreement on the exploitation of electricity in Zimbabwe. Speaking before his departure, the minister of state for energy resources and development, Dr Oliver Munyaradze, told newsmen in the city that the two countries have reached an accord on electricity. He added that Zambia is assured of an export market of its electricity in Zimbabwe. He said the meeting was also interested in finding new ways through which they could work together.

ZAPU Offices in Kwekwe Closed Indefinitely

MB160630 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The ZAPU offices in Kwekwe have been closed indefinitely after demonstrations on Thursday by thousands of ZANU-PF supporters in protest against ZAPU and its support for dissidents. The closure was announced by the deputy minister for paramilitary training, Comrade (William Dangala), after the demonstrations. The demonstrations were sparked by the murder by dissidents last Monday of Comrade Celestine Jongwe, a vice chairman of the ZANU-PF in the Zhombe District.

New Assembly Member for Matabeleland Announced

MB161000 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Jun 84

[Text] The registrar general of elections has announced that Comrade (Welsh Mabena) has been declared a member of the House of Assembly with effect from 14 June. Comrade (Mabena) fills the vacancy created by the expulsion of Comrade (Mkachaya Mutanga) as a member of parliament for matabeleland North last year. His seat became vacant on 22 May last year after he was convicted by the Bulawayo regional court on a charge of fraud. He was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment in April last year. In terms of the constitution, if a member of the House of Assembly is imprisoned for more than 6 months on a criminal charge, his seat becomes vacant 30 days after the date of his conviction. Comrade (Mutanga) had taken the seat left vacant by the ZAPU member of parliament for Matabeleland North, Comrade (Donald Mangene), who died in June 1982.